■ Entertainment
Shocking details revealed in tell-all bio of Jane Fonda

■ News / A4
PNB president Lorenzo Tan announces resignation

■ Lifestyle
'A celebration of the Filipino Spirit' for world parliamentarians

■ Inquest Files / A6
Who killed Jerson?

JOB
Are you driven! We're looking for you!

Pinay lawyer to defend Nora in US drug charges

By Pob Castaneda

THE FILIPINO lawyer helping superstar Nora Aunor face drug charges in California does not exactly consider herself a fan, but says it's more than just her professional duty to defend someone "dearly tied to our history and culture."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEW

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There's no more hope, doctors say

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul slipped in and out of consciousness and his general condition remained extremely serious on Saturday but the Vatican denied he had sunk into a coma.

"When he speaks, his eyes are open and he remains conscious, but at times he seems to be sleeping ... Technically I would exclude a comatose state," spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Cable network CNN quoted one confidant as saying that "the Pope is now speaking to God."

Just as the Sterrill began what a priest called "the very last leg of his journey of life and of faith," Vatican administrator Cardinal Marcio Francisco Pompedda visited him on Friday and said John Paul opened his eyes and smiled.

"I understood he recognized me. It was a wonderful smile. I'll remember it forever. It was a luminous smile—a father-like smile," Pompedda said.

Navarro-Valls told journalists the overall condition of the Pope, whose health began to deteriorate on Thursday remained "very serious."

"As of this morning, or dawn, we are noticing that his state of consciousness is fluctuating. This absolutely does not mean he is in a coma," Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the Vatican's health care office, told Mexico's Televisa that "there's no reason why the Pope is about to die."

"I talked to the doctors and they told me there is no more hope," the Mexican cardinal told the television channel.

PARTNERS IN PEOPLE POWER: The Pope supported the call to the people of then Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to support pro-reform military group that broke away from the Marcos dictatorship.

World at Pope's bedside

Outpouring of love goes with him in his journey to immortality

"PHENOMENAL." the Pope called the Filipinos during his second visit here Jan. 12-14, 1995 when he drew from four to five million people at the Luneta for the closing rites of the 10th World Youth Day, reportedly the biggest in the history of its participants. The crowd was so thick there was no way he could have used the specially-designed, Filipino-made "popemobile," and he had to be helicopted in to the area. The Pope later said he would like to return "every year."

THE WORLD was at his bedside on Pope John Paul II lingered at death's door yesterday.

Expressions of anxiety, fear, hope and love poured in not only from Roman Catholics but from Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Shintoists and atheists, as well.

Even the Turkish statesman who tried to assassinate John Paul in 1981 prayed for the man he called his "brother."

Messages of concern came even from China, which does not allow its Catholics to recognize the Pontiff's authority.

"China expresses its concern and hopes the Pope can get more advanced medical treatment, recover and restore his health," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said as a small group of official religious leaders and worshippers prayed for the pontiff.

China's Communist rulers do not allow Catholics to recognize papal authority and force Christians to belong to state-backed patriotic associations if they want to worship openly.

China, which has about 8 million Catholics, broke ties with the Vatican in the 1950s after expelling foreign clergy. The Holy See recognizes Beijing's diplomatic rival, Taipei.

Russian newspapers spoke about the important role John Paul played in the downfall of communism in eastern Europe.

The official government daily Rossiskaya Gazeta noted the close, personal relationship that existed between former Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his successor Vladimir Putin, and John Paul.

"When they came to the Vatican, even accomplished atheists convinced that in this hill, you can only count on yourself, change as a glance ... Both won the next elections," Yeltsin and Putin[...] and very members of the Russian delegations of

John Paul has passionate love affair with Filipinos

By Lito B. Zulueta

IF FILIPINOS are steadfast and unabashedly assuming heavens with prayers to save Pope John Paul II, it is because they hold claims to their hearts the man who gifted them with not one but two papal visits in his long pontificate.

He would have found or make a third visit, but illness and terminal threats prevented him from doing so.

"We will always remember him with love for those two papal visits," said Fr. Nestor Gomez, OP, former dean of theology of the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Santo Tomas.

Gomez called the visits "incredible," explaining that the first visit (on Feb. 17-22, 1981) was marked by the heartfelt cries of Lorenzo Ruiz and his martyr companions at the Rizal Park, the first such ceremony ever outside Rome, and the second visit (on Jan. 12-16, 1995), by the biggest crowd in history.

"He would be remembered as a rich papacy," Gomez said. "Time magazine was right when, in [choosing] the Pope as its Man of the year in 1994, it wrote, 'He generates electricity unmatched by anyone.'"

Gomez described the Pontiff as "the missionary of the world" for his frequent world travels that spanned the length and breadth of the Christian ideology.

By visiting the Philippines twice, the Pope emphasized the Philippines' importance in the Church of the world, the Dominican said, adding:

"We showed that the Philippines is the pulpit for Asia. He spoke radical words regarding social justice, preferential option for the poor, promotion of human rights and religious freedom. He emphasized both natural morals and social ethics. The world was really his parish."

Gomez, who had met the Pope several times and now celebrated Mass with him at Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer home, said John Paul also held the Philippines close to his heart.

Often in Rome in attend meetings of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Gomez said the Pope would lighten up on hearing summons of the Philippines, which had always given him a source of

Bishops in military's 'front row' enemy' listing

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

TROUBLEMAN is apparently among the enemy in anything that moves, including pillars of the Church.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is practically among the 20 groups dread-listed as enemies of the state in a military document titled "Knowing Your Enemy."

The document, which is in the form of a 20-minute lecture-slide presentation, is being circulated in

The mourning after, search for successor begins

A LOOK at the process in mourning the death of a pope and electing his successor.

DEATH: A pronouncement of death is made in Latin and is certified by a physician. The camerlengo, or chamberlain, then tells out the pontiff's baptismal name—"Karol" for Pope John Paul II—three times in a row to confirm there is no response.

At the end, the camerlengo strikes a silver hammer against the pope's forehead to confirm his death, but it's unclear if the ritual is still active.

The camerlengo then destroys the symbols of that papacy: the "Fisherman's" or Ring of the Fisherman, and the dies used to make lead seals for apostolic letters.

The pope's quarters are sealed and by papal custom cannot be opened.

Spanish Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, 78, has been the camerlengo since 1993.

Various flags fly at half-staff. According to tradition, the Roman Dove at St. Peter's Basilica is shrouded.

MOURNING PERIOD: An official nine-day mourning period, known as the "novemdiales," follows the death of a pope. The tradition dates from ancient Rome and a ceremony held nine days after a death. The pope's body lies in state in St. Peter's Basilica in the Clementine Chapel, which was begun by Michelangelo and completed by Giacomo Della Porta for the jubilee in 1600.

THE FUNERAL: The funeral and burial must be held between the fourth and sixth day after death except for unquestioned "special reasons," according to rules established in 1996. Weather permitting, it would be held in St. Peter's Square.

Many of the world's leaders and other dignitaries would likely attend. Also on hand would be many of the Cardinals, who select the new Pope.

BURIAL: Most popes in recent centuries have chosen to be buried beneath St. Peter's Basilica. After the funeral, their lead-lined coffins—which are snugly close to a half-ton—were carried through the "door of death" on the left side of the main altar in the basilica.

A single bell tolled. The coffin was lowered into a marble sarcophagus and covered by a huge stone slab.

The Vatican has not clarified whether Pope John Paul II seeks such a burial.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Caltex, Total hike prices anew

MAJOR oil importers Caltex and Total yesterday increased their gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter, the 10th price hike in a month and the second this week.

Oil refiner Petron Corp. also announced an increase in its petroleum products' prices, also by 50 centavos per liter, to take effect today.

The domestic oil companies justified the new increased price levels to the surging price of oil in the world market.

Department of Energy data showed regional benchmark Dubai crude prices shooting up to a March 1 to March 29 average of $45.73 a barrel, from $39.07 a barrel in February.

The price of unleaded gasoline, based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products, also surged by a March 1 to March 29 average of $59.41 per barrel, more than $5 higher than the February average of $54.27 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel also hit a high $67.14 a barrel average in the first 29 days of March from an average of $53.63 a barrel in February.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have gone up six times by a total of 75.5 centavos, while prices of diesel fuel have increased seven times by a total of 75.50 centavos. —Marjell L. Ho

Palace giving up on new special session for VAT

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has apparently given up the idea of calling another special session of Congress to rush Senate approval of the expanded value-added tax after coming up empty in the just-concluded special three-day session.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the Palace was now looking to the regular Congress session to approve the disputed measure.

"There really wasn't enough time. We hope to have continuous deliberations [in the regular session] and we hope for an approval of the Senate version of the VAT," said Bunye in an INFO radio interview.

"Anyway, it is just a few more days between now and April 11 [the resumption of Congress sessions]," he said.

An exasperated President Macapagal-Arroyo last week threatened to call Congress, which is on its holy Week recess, in an endless series of special sessions until the VAT measure is approved.

She called for a special session from March 30 to April 1 after the Senate failed to approve its version of the VAT reform before Congress went on recess last March 18.

Despite pressure being made to bear on the Senate through full-page newspaper advertisements and backroom negotiations, the special session ended without the VAT measure being passed.

The senators said they wanted more time to discuss the VAT reform being proposed and increasing the rate from 10 percent to 12 percent and determining what sectors or industries would be stripped of their VAT exemption.

Business leaders dismayed

Business leaders, who had been appealing to the senators' sense of patriotism to approve the VAT measure, were disappointed and dismayed at the outcome, said Philippine Exporters Confederation president Sergio Ortiz-Luis.

He said that while some senators were clearly serious about their role in establishing the VAT bills, some were obviously standing (being stigmatized by the measure's unpopularity) that could affect their chances of being reelected in 2007.

Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said it would probably be more prudent for the President to just wait for resumption of Congress' regular session "so that she won't be perceived as influencing the Senate."

Bunye said the special session was not a complete waste of time as the senators were able to have three days of consultations and briefings.

"I think volunteers [some more senators at the start] have been all clarified during the special session," he said.

He said squeezing in another special session before Congress reopens on April 11 would be impracticable as the legislators would be busy with the Inter-Parliamentary Union which the Philippines is hosting from April 5 to 8.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, meanwhile, said his Senate colleagues were set to pass a version of the VAT bill that would maintain the rate at 10 percent but expand VAT coverage to petroleum products and independent power producers.

'Too much of a burden'

Increasing the VAT rate to 12 percent would be "too much of a burden," Kimba told the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo breakfast forum.

"It will be politically explosive. The people will not understand. While they will understand is that the government is compounding their sufferings," the senator said.

Kimba said there was no need for the President to call for another special session as the senators have already concluded their deliberations on the expanded VAT.

"My advice to the administration is to just wait for the regular session, since it is already near. It's certain that the VAT will be passed when Congress resumes its session," he said.

House leaders yesterday said they were disappointed with the Senate's failure to pass the VAT bill.

Antipas Bag. Bangard Jeaist, vice chair of the committee on ways and means, said the special session was a show in which the senators gave a dismal performance.

"They didn't stop the clock even after bragging they were willing to work late just to finish the much-delayed VAT bill," he said.

"Based on government computations, the delayed Senate action would mean P2.4 billion in revenue loss or P1.2 billion a week which includes losses from [expense accounts] to opportunities," Jeaist said. With a report from Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeo

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METRO
Editor Ester G. Olpoquil ■ Assistant Lalay Gonon-G. Bito Jr.

Low-profile NGO spreads its wings

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR LONG, Volo Philippine Volunteers Foundation, Inc. has kept a low profile even as it tried to help the less privileged.

But now is a taking steps to be more visible so it will be able to help more people.

"It's better to do this now that we are already accomplished. We did not want to launch the organization when we had not done anything yet," said Josefina Alcantara, board member of Volo or Volunteers International for Development, Education, and Services.

Underprivileged

For a decade now, Volo Philippines, the local chapter of the international volunteer arm of the congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, has been bringing volunteers to reach out to underprivileged women and children across the country.

The nongovernment organization was born 18 years ago in Italy as the Volontariato Internazionale Donne Educazione Sviluppo under the auspices of the religious congregation of Don Bosco.

Volo Philippines started in 1990 to set off those of the Salesian Lauro Shubbe Foundation.

On its own

This year, the organization decided to stand on its own and officially become one of 27 Salesian-based chapters of Volo International.

But Volo, the names expanding low-key members in all of Salesian in the vicinity villages of Guadalupe in Cebu City; organizers plant families of Hacienda Malibay in Victorias City, Negros Occidental, and thousands of displaced families in Central Luzon after the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

"We decided to launch now in order to create awareness of our new project," said Sister Ma. Victoria Sta. Ana, Salesian nun and president of Volo Philippines, in an interview Thursday.

Backed by his enthusiasm of 79 volunteers, Volo aims to establish soon on a literacy program that will bring knowledge to urban poor communities in Metro Manila.

Before the end of the year, Volo Philippines hopes to get its first mobile library and classroom on the road to launch in Metro Manila project, "Bosina: Sila, Daanang Ka."

Extension

"We wanted to have an extension of what we have been doing. So our thought of other things we could do for the kids," said Sister de Guzman, the organization's secretary who is among the pioneer volunteers.

Rolling classroom

The mobile library project of Volo aims to bring both books and values to blighted communities in the National Capital Region, initially used de Guzman, the organization would bring its mobile library and classroom to the same three communities where it had been conducting a values formation program for almost three years now.

"We also develop the habit of reading! We know that there has been a deterioration in reading skills among kids in poor communities, and those in public schools have limited textbooks and have no access to reading materials," said de Guzman, who left the corporate world to work full-time for Volo.

Since 2002, she now and more up of Volo have been gathering children from the riverbank communities of Barangay 143 and 144 in Malabog Pasay, for weekly classes know "street camps."

Educated on values

The children, aged five to 15, are given lessons on values, prayer devotion, and even basic grooming. The children, many attending public school, are also given a chance at "free play", said de Guzman, as the volunteers brought them toys.

"It's amazing because we have seen the kids grow, literally, and the children who come regularly have changed a lot," said de Guzman.

"When we first went down, the children were unkempt... they did not take baths. But after we taught them, they learned how to groom themselves, and some even were asking the instructor to clean their places after our sessions," she added.

From only a handful of pupils, between 200 to 250 children now attend the street camp's values formation lessons and extracurricular activities, said de Guzman.

"They are always excited, and they have something to look forward to," she said.

Volo hopes the mobile library program will generate the same excitement about learning not only among youngsters, but even the out-of-school and illiterate.

"There are many mobile library projects now, so we are thinking about what would set us apart from the others. We thought of also reaching those who had dropped out of school, and even older ones who never attended school," she said.

Non-formal curriculum

Volo has begun coordinating with the Department of Education's (Deped) Bureau of Alternative Learning System and has acquired nonformal education modules from them.

"We are also inquiring about seminars the Deped may give to our volunteers to teach them how to handle learners," said de Guzman.

The organization is also gathering the necessary logistics, both human and material, for its new venture.

Apart from the funding provided by some chapters of Volo, de Guzman said the organization already started knocking on the doors of companies and private individuals to ask for contributions.

Intense search

And Volo has intensified its search for individuals who could live by the organization's motto, "One for Others."

"You can't find anything wrong in what you're doing (in Volo). It is all worth it," said de Guzman, 48, a University of the Philippines Diliman graduate who was already holding a managerial post in a private company when she decided to devote her time to volunteer work three years ago.

Besides, said Sta. Ana, it was for volunteerism, that Volo was primarily established.

"It is a call to love. Greatness is in loving and serving," Sta. Ana said.

VIDEO volunteers hold an earnings and teach young people carnations, like this one held every Sunday at the San Roque Parish in Pasay City. CARMELA PUNZALAN

Forger lives up to his name

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) arrested over the weekend a man for purportedly living up to his name to a fault.

Rodolfo Manabat Dayapan, 39, of Lourdes Street, Caloocan City, was nabbed for allegedly engaging in the production and manufacture of fake public and commercial documents.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Dayapan, whose name means suppose, was nabbed in an entrapment operation at Rudy's Minor graphics and Bookbinding shop.

Dayapan reportedly owned the shop found along C.M. Recto, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The alleged document forger was arrested by agents from the NBI Intelligence and Special Operations Division.

Armed with warrant

The agents led by agent Alfred Condeza were armed with a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio M. Eugenio.

Authorities seized a computer and documents, including birth certificates purportedly issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

However, upon verification with the NSO, it was discovered that the documents had alterations and were spurious, Wycoco said.

Charges of violations of Article 172 (Falsification of Public Documents) in relation to Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code have been filed against Dayapan before the Manila Prosecutor's Office. The suspect was detained at the NBI jail.

Meanwhile, in an earlier incident, Yeyey Murilla and Gerry Berba were also caught producing fake documents, like NBI clearances, Professional Regulatory Commission IDs, driver's licenses and birth certificates in Sta. Cruz.

MetroBriefs

It's still 5 days for NBI clearance

THE OMB-SC can still get a clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for only a week despite Malacañang's implementation of a four-day workweek. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Wycoco said all NBI clearance offices, including those in malls, would continue to observe the 5-7-5 days. He added that the bureau's identification and records divisions and its outside offices, and all matters legal and technical are not subject to the four-day week. Tina G. Santos

Manila takes on city waterways

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday ordered the city engineering office to use the summer to unclog the city's waterways and drainage systems to minimize flooding when the rainy season comes. "We should take advantage of the weather to finish the cleaning of the city's closed drainage and catch basins, as well as dredging the creeks there before the rains set in," Atienza said. He particularly directed City Engineer Armando Andres to clear the sewer and drainage system along Recto and Lacson Avenue. Last year, the engineering office cleared 8,315 manholes and 14,336 catch basins. It also unclogged 40 kilometers of drainage lines and cleaned up kilometers of open canals. In all, the department collected 4,913.36 cubic meters of debris. Tina G. Santos

This bay is no summer resort

OFFICIALS of Manila said the public should not to swim in the Manila Bay for them to avoid contracting skin diseases and other illnesses. Mayor Lito Atienza said the contamination of pollutants in the bay was high. "We discourage swimming in Manila Bay. There are many diseases that could be acquired on doing this," Atienza said. He added that although Manila already developed the city's drainage and sewerage system, it would still need the help of the local government of Pasig, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and Quezon in cleaning up the bay. Tina G. Santos

Baby drowns in pail of water

BATAAN that baby, the seven-month-old son of a street dwelling couple died after he reportedly drowned in a pail of water yesterday in Manila. SPO1 Ricardo Lopez, police said report. Deputy says in the pail of water when found by his father, Daniel Lagarde, at about 5:30 a.m. Investigation showed that James was left in the care of his mother, Irene, while her live-in partner, a pedicab driver, left for work yesterday morning. The couple's two other children were busy playing with neighbors, Javier said. Prior to the incident, the boy was sleeping beside his mother on the sidewalk at the corner of Adriatico and Isaac Streets in Manila. Some 20 minutes later, Lagarde went back but was shocked to find the infant in the water container. Tina G. Santos

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

PNB president stepping down

By Doris C. Dumlao

A CHANGING of the guard looms in the state government: Philippine National Bank with president Lourdes Tan announcing that he would be leaving the bank on April 15.

Tan's resignation followed a source-grown, move announcement that it intends to sell within the year its 65 percent stake in the PNB, which is jointly owned with tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan.

The PNB-released announcement yesterday, "Mr. Tan tendered his resignation to the PNB board, advising them of his decision to move toward some of the goals he has set for himself by exploring opportunities with a foreign institution."

Industry sources said Tan's contract was to expire soon and the bank's shareholders apparently did not offer to renew his term.

Tan was president of the United Coconut Planters Bank when he took the top post at the PNB on April 18, 2002 at the invitation of the bank's two major shareholders— the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Lucio Tan group.

Tan, who is not related to Lucio Tan, was said to be the government's choice for the post. At the time, the PDIC had just infused P7.45 billion to equity into the bank in the form of preferred shares.

Tan's principal mandate was to carry out a five-year rehabilitation program and turn around the finances of the loss-making PNB, at one time the country's biggest bank.

Last year, under Tan's stewardship, the PNB registered profits for the second straight year, which net profits more than doubling to P453 million from P148 million in 2003.

The PNB credited Tan's adoption of the "good bank-bad bank" strategy on having enabled the bank to resume operating in the black.

"Tan was able to attract a number of highly qualified senior officers from other banks to join him in the bank's rehabilitation. Together with the bank's existing cadre of seasoned officers, the bank has in place a strong management team to sustain the growth in customers and profitability of the bank," the PNB statement said.

It said the bank's board of directors was deeply appreciative of Tan's efforts and dedication toward the turnaround of the bank and wished him all the best in his future endeavors."

When he announced last month the government's intention to sell its stake in the PNB, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said it was the right time to do it as the bank was now seen as financially stable.

Purisima said this was part of an aggressive policy of privatization as the government should not be engaging in the business of banking.

Lucio Tan is said to be keen to sell jointly with the government at least 67 percent of their combined stake in the PNB.

In a recent roundtable discussion with business editors, Lucio Tan ruled out his retaining a shareholder stake in the bank as he said he had "no money" to buy out the government's stake.

Fake ages? 3 AFP officers under probe

By Fe Zamora

THREE officers—two from the Air Force and one from the Army—have been questioned for allegedly faking their retirement ages, according to an internal source in the Armed Forces.

The source identified the PAF officers as Maj. Gen. Alarcillo, AFP deputy chief of staff for plans, and Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Jimenez, chief of the 710th Special Operations Wing. The Army officer was identified as Maj. Gen. Mortimer Alex, formerly a camp commander in Central Aguinaldo.

Earlier, the military ordered court-martial proceedings against six Navy MGs, Ruben Flores for allegedly faking his retirement age, making it appear that he had not yet reached the mandatory retirement age of 56.

Rear Admiral Mateo Mayuga, AFP deputy chief of staff for personnel, denied that Alex, Alarcillo and Jimenez had fudged their birth dates in order to appear they were younger and could still remain in active duty.

But Mayuga also admitted that Alex "had a problem" because "he was born in the Mt. Province and he was not registered properly."

Despite the missing vital documents, Alex was acknowledged by the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) using an affidavit from "one disinterested person who attested that he (Alex) was born on such a date," Mayuga explained.

A PMA alumni registry listed Alex, who was a member of Class of 1975, as being born on September 19, 1951.

"There were many of us who were accepted even without an official copy of the birth certificate," Mayuga said, adding that he was accepted on the same circumstances.

He said Alex "had not been tested" but was in fact on his way to a new assignment in Mindanao.

According to Mayuga, Alarcillo and Jimenez graduated from the PMA in 1973. Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes also belonged to Class of 1973.

As a result of the three cases, the military launched a review on the birth certificates and the retirement ages of the generals, according to Mayuga.

"We not only rely on their birth certificates, we also ask them to sign sworn affidavits that they were really born on that year," he said.

FPJ backers to take the fight to streets

By Norman Bordadora

SUPPORTERS of the late actor and defeated presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., yesterday said they came did not expect anything substantial after filing a motion for reconsideration with the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

Lingguy Alcuaz, spokesperson of the National Council of Concerned Volunteers, said the late actor's supporters would rather adopt protest actions than wait for the PET to announce its decision dismissing FPJ's election protest in Oct's protest versus President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We have no other option. In a situation where the decision is [nonexistent], we won't make any headway if we put our hopes on the motion for reconsideration," Alcuaz said in a weekly breakfast forum yesterday.

Atty. Ben Gomez, an official of the NCCV said they were looking at people power as a possible action.

Opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, a member of Poe's Koalisyon ng Maglakbayang Pilipino ticket in the last election, said the PET's decision is "perfectly legal" and Poe's supporters had no other recourse but to proceed their case to the people.

"When Fernando Poe Jr. died, his protest died with him. Depending on a lawyer, the action of the Supreme Court as presidential electoral tribunal is legally correct," Enrile said.

He said that he still did not know the opposition's plans in the wake of the electoral protest dismissal.

If the decision of the PET did not sit well with the people, "the only available remedy is to take action themselves," Enrile said, "and I won't advocate that."

Last week, deposed President Joseph Estrada served to counter-issue the flight of the opposition for the restoration of the Constitution and the rule of law as he formally accepted the position of "chairman emeritus" of the United Opposition (UNO).

In a message to the UNO leaders during their meeting at Club Filipino, Estrada recalled that during the wake of his friend Poe at the Iglesia ni Cristo, Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo encouraged the opposition to continue the fight.

"Manalo said to labor: Huwag nyo siguro mag-gagawin [We will borrow what we have to do], let's do it as one," Estrada said.

Pope appoints 2 new RP bishops

By Jerome Aning

POPE John Paul II had named new bishops for the dioceses of San Fernando City, La Union and Legazpi City in what might have been his last appointments as Pontiff.

Bishop Antonio Tobias, SSD, of Bangued in Abra was transferred to San Fernando City, while Noel Conlu, auxiliary bishop of Dipolog, Zamboanga Norte, was named new prelate of Legazpi City.

The appointments, announced in the Vatican Today, mostly were announced on the media accredited to the reporting on the Pope's grave condition.

Aside from Tobias and Conlu, the Pope also appointed two other new bishops to Mozambique and Nicaragua.

Nine apostolic nuncios, or papal representatives, to Sierra Leone and Lesotho were also named, while the resignation of two bishops were accepted.

Cardinal Sin accepts Bishop Jose Sorra, who recently turned 75 (the retirement age under Church law. Sorra was Legazpi bishop since 1993.

Tobias will fill up the San Fernando episcopal see that had been vacant since November 1991 when Antonio Tobias was named bishop of the newly created Diocese of Novaliches in Metro Manila.

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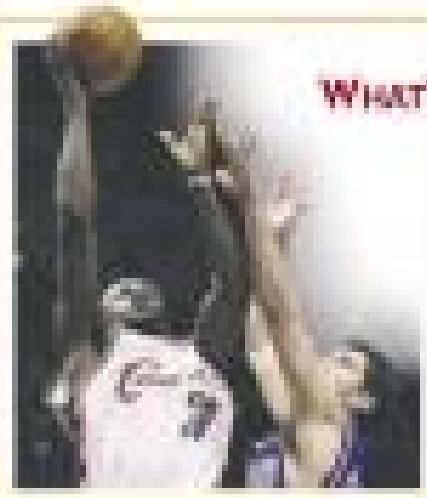
Application forms are now available at the Office of the Assistant to the Director for Health Operations, 10th floor, Main Hospital Building. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Nanette Encabo at 523-81-31 loc 3001.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

Montaña decks gritty Harbour squad in OT



WHAT'S INSIDE

By Jennifer M. Paya

BRICK de la Cuesta shot 10 of his 19 points from beyond the arc to lead Mercurio Pharmacy past gritty newcomers Harbour Centre, 81-75, in overtime in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

"As expected, they're a very talented team," said hoopla coach Robert Sison. "But the reason we won this game is that we played smarter down the stretch."

Trailing 71-72 in overtime, the hoopla scored eight unanswered points for an 80-73 lead in the final minutes.

The hoopla were down, 69-66, in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter but De la Cuesta nailed a three-pointer in the final 27.4 seconds that forced overtime, 69-69.

In the opening game, Dennis Counta wrapped up a 26-point quarter to lift Cignal Super Spikers past Blue Sea Energy Drink, 62-49.

"He showed a good shooting performance," said coach Ani Rus of Counta, who finished with a game-high 16 points. "I just hope that he will be consistent."

Counta drilled 10 straight points, including back-to-back triples, during the Cignal lead to 13 points, 47-34, after Lolito 07-04 edge.

The Aveda wins (from by as many as 22 points, for 56, but he to Counta ignited a 20-point comeback that narrowed the gap by five, 54-49, in the third quarter.

With Mac Cardoza of the Suns, Harbour Centre managed to stay ahead making in the fourth period, 65-58. The Aveda, however, took advantage of three trips at the foul line to pull within three, 69-66.

Hoopla also survived the scoring performance of Cardoza, who finished with a game-high 24 points.

The Aveda missed the services of starting forward Al Magpayo after he fractured his left arm in the first period.

Quinsay Gonzaga powered in double-digit buckets in the fourth quarter, extending the lead to as much as 20 points, 59-39, but then their offense stalled.

Earlier, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad awarded Manny Pacquiao the league's first ever Cignal ng Bagong Pilipino award for his "spirited efforts" in his recent match against Marquez. Erik Morales.

The scores:

Hoopla pharma

Harbour Centre

Aveda

Cardoza

Quinsay

TECHNO VISIT President Macapagal-Arroyo views the facilities of the Taiwan Philippines Corporation during yesterday's visit to the Laguna Technopark in Binan, Laguna. With her is Taiwan Babs, director and managing executive officer of the Japanese firm, which produces syringes, catheters and other medical equipment and supplies. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Asean legislators take common stand vs Burma

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip Tubeza and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

FILIPINO and other legislators from Southeast Asia agreed yesterday to take economic stand on Burma, bringing more pressure on the military junta to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and respect human rights.

The group of legislators from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations adopted a joint resolution urging the 140-member Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to support the bloc's initiatives to step up international pressure on Burma, also known as Myanmar.

IPU, the 116-year-old association of parliaments of democracies around the world, opens its 114th general assembly at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City tonight.

The Burma issue is not on the agenda of the IPU, to be scheduled by at least 700 lawmakers from 144 countries across the globe. The Philippines is hosting the IPU for the first time since the group was established in 1889.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver the keynote speech during the opening ceremonies of the IPU at 7:30 this evening, while Senate President Franklin Drilon is expected to be elected president of the IPU assembly.

"We view the lack of democratic reforms in [Myanmar] with deep concern," Sharg Kal Tayan, a member of Singapore's parliament, told a press conference.

Datuk Lod Ibrahim, a Malaysian lawmaker and head of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus, said he had sent letters to Southeast Asian foreign ministers to compel Burma to honor its commitment to implement democratic reforms.

Asean foreign ministers are due to meet on Wednesday to discuss preparations for a historic first Asian Summit in Malaysia later this year and other issues like security, economic integration, land-locked and tsunami relief.

Asean includes Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Asean drew out Burma from isolation in 1997, taking a more conciliatory approach of "constructive engagement" with the country's exclusive generals, a diplomatic move which Lawmakers described as "no longer effective."

There are now signs Asean is taking the gloves off, frustrated over the pace of democratic reforms in Burma and worried about hurting the bloc's ties with wealthier Europe and the United States.

Speaker Jose De Venecia called for the release of Suu Kyi and urged the creation of a unity government between the opposition and the military junta in Burma.

De Venecia said the proposal could lead to a "negotiated political settlement, break Myanmar's long-running political deadlock and ultimately bring in the international fold." With Reuters

THE PHASE of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi dominates the exhibit launched yesterday by the Philippine Parliamentary Caucus on Myanmar and the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus at the Century Park. RAMON VELEZ

Ex-DAR chief cries foul over 'trial by publicity'

A FORMER acting agrarian secretary who was placed under preventive suspension yesterday accused the Office of the Ombudsman of subjecting him to "trial by publicity" over a graft complaint that had been "ailbowed to prosper in spite of inaccuracies of fact."

Jose Mari B. Ponce, who is now acting chief, administrator and chief executive officer of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (Cezа), was placed on a six-month preventive suspension by the Ombudsman while being investigated for alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Ombudsman investigators said Ponce had allegedly acquired wealth beyond his lawful means and had allegedly concealed the extent of his assets in the statements of assets and liabilities that he had filed for several years.

In a press statement yesterday, Ponce decried the Ombudsman's action against him based on an anonymous complaint filed on Nov. 22, 2004.

He said the Ombudsman's investigators did not take into consideration his counter-affidavit of Feb. 16, 2005 in which he categorically denied hiding any assets or liabilities or made "willful and deliberate assertion of falsehood" in his SALN.

"I demand proof, among others, that I and my wife have other legitimate sources of income from businesses.... Indian Consultancy, Cagayan Satellite Program Network Inc., a cable TV service provider; a rag video and barber shop, etc.—from which my family derives adequate financial support and which could outshine easily its exiguous assets as set forth," he said.

Ponce also contested the charge of perjury over his alleged failure to declare a property in Seaside Homes in Quezon City in his SALN.

"There could not have been any perjury because the title to the Fernside property was delivered to me only in February 2002. How could I have declared ownership of this property in 2001 when, in truth and fact, I never had any title to it?" he said.

He argued that the basis for his preventive suspension— to prevent him from tampering with records or influencing potential witnesses—was moot and academic as he was no longer connected with the CEZA.

Ponce, who has been in government service for 20 years, served as acting agrarian reform secretary from Feb. 23 to Aug. 15, 2004. He assumed his Cezа post on Jan. 3, 2005.

Ponce said he would be filing a motion for reconsideration with the Ombudsman's office.

Cops on full alert for IPU

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PHILIPPINE National Police goes on full alert state mode for the opening today of the 114th International Parliamentary Union (IPU) which Manila is hosting for the first time since the conference was established in 1889.

"The security preparations are the same as those we undertook during the Holy Week," PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said yesterday.

"We are under pressure.' Our goal is to be able to finish the event successfully and book any untoward incidents," Chief Supt. Wilkinson Garcia Jr., Southern Police District (SPD) director, said yesterday.

Sorties and the traffic seen from the airport to the hotels—Pasay City, Makati City and along the Roxas—where the parliamentarians would be staying for six days and the route to the PICC had already been secured.

Who killed Jerson: Murder triggers web of scandals, intrigue

IMAGINE yourself in a crowded bar in Binan, nursing a glass of San Mig Blue and watching nightcrawlers parade in their fashionable best. Suddenly, you hear gunshots. There's been a murder in the parking lot of the Purple Pear—a.k.a. Mystify Bar in Crossbell 2. Police officers round up six suspects for the premeditated death of 28-year-old Jerson Morales.

Relax. No crime had been committed. This was the brainchild of Philippine Daily Inquirer's (PDI) Quest Adventure.

As the treasure's most ambitious marketing brain, the big wigs of the outfit's most circulated newspaper just had to be there: president Armando "Sandy" Doro Romualdez, marketing vice president Ronald Lim, advertising vice president Pepito Diaroy, assistant vice president Jimmy Sevilla, HR and admin director Managoy Rudy Sanares and information technology and process vice president Gary Gilby.

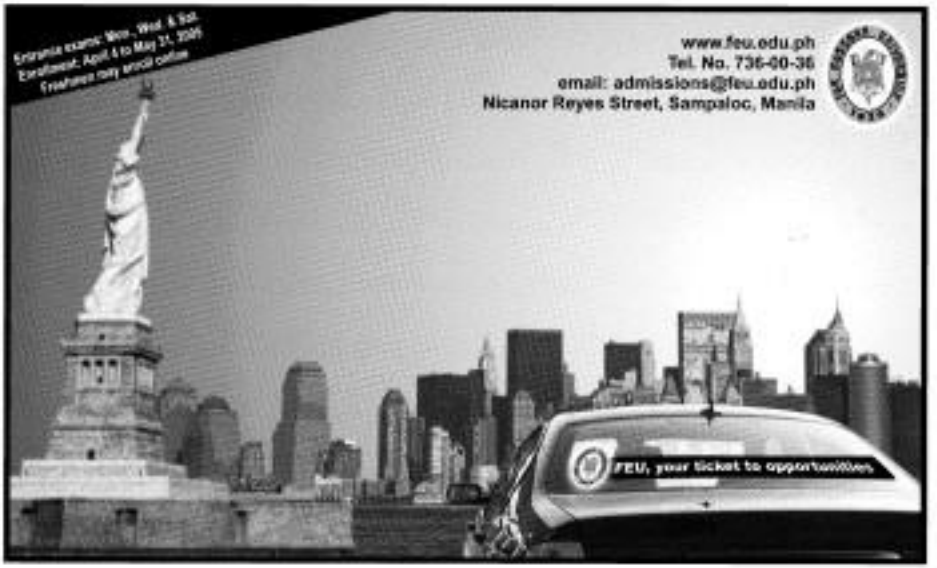
Highlight of the launch was the introduction of the six master suspects—winners of the recently concluded Business Chronicle Quest. They are: Luis "Lui-gi" Lindayan, a 23 year-old management economics graduate of Ateneo De Manila University, as Bet'tot; Kristo "Jun" LaGarde, a 21 year-old quality supervisor at Ambergris Solutions Philippines in Pateros, as Ms Margarita "Anna" Mesa, a 29-year-old Equitable PCI Bank employee, as Cynthia; Christian "Ian" Ambrosio, an 24-year-old radio announcer, as Dan; Leny Gallardo, a 47-year-old entrepreneur, as Pipo; and 28 year-old Karen "Kaplan" Young as Ang.

So, who killed Jerson Morales? Join PDIquester and find out! Just text PDQ BIO<3(10 numbers)<space>(all down)<space>(gender) (ex. PDQ Ang Juan dela Cruz<space>Ortigas Ave Pasig<space>M) to 2329 for globe/Touch Mobile subscribers or 209 for Smart/Talk 'N' Text subscribers. Upon registration, the mobile phone number used will be automatically locked to the PDIquester's name.

Once registered, PDIquesters may follow the PDQuest Mystery novel hosted in various sections of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and guess the answers to the questions at the end of each story part. Clues to the answer have been buried within the pages of the Inquirer, on the PDQuest website or on DQTV (Thursdays, 8 to 9 p.m. on ABC 5).

For questions, PDQuesters may text PDQ Help <your question> and send to 2329 for Globe/Touch Mobile subscribers or 300 for Smart/Addict/Talk N' Text subscribers, or log on to marketing@inquirer.net and use their mobile number as password.

Now, are you ready for a different kind of gimmick? Check the map; be an PDQuester!



BEERMEN Danny Seigle (right) and Dwin Bungcaras harass Purefoods star Wesley Wilson. PHILIP ARCTO

Menk ends poor play, fuels Kings

By Jane Manaois

ERIC Menk finally came out of a scoring slump to help Barangay Ginebra register a 102-88 rout of the Purefoods Express in the 2005 Great Slambox PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Zamboanga City Coliseum.

Displaying excellent pocket moves in the post games, the MVP of last conference's Philippine Cup fired 23 points (his most since mid-4 point shy of his career output of 34 points after four outings.

Menk, who went 11-of-24 from the field, mixed four assists, a block and a steal in 39 minutes, also supplemented his bank in rebounding by grabbing 15 boards to surpass his 8.5-rebound average.

Menk Caguioa also made no fuss a second-rater cutting the Siegel last, the Purefoods' TJ Hidalgo last week by shifting in a couple of decisive jumpers that broke the momentum of the Express.

Caguioa finished with 18 points, Eddie Rivera added 14 points and 13 rebounds and Andy Seigle scored all of his eight points in the pivotal period as the Gin Kings tied the Slam Tuborgers at 3-3.

The Gin Kings actually played Hilary to Wesley Gonzalez's sparkling night after the former Ateneo star knocked in a career-high three triples to finish with 15 points.

Renren Ritualo came up with 29 points while Anthony Miller struggled with 14 points on top of 17 rebounds as the Express absorbed their setback in five games.

Meanwhile, Baby and Ej play for the same team in a United States-based professional league.

Now, Rakuel Herndon and Noel Felix will be forced to play at fifth circle where Coca-Colaers on Tuesday, 16 Nov today in the 2005 Great Slambox PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers will lose on the high-scoring flankly to secure a two-game slid while Felix, who made quite an impression in his debut against Alaska, strengthen the Phone Pals' bid to grab a share of the lead.

Shortly, a 5-0-10 power forward with a decent outside touch, and the 6-0-0 Felix were the top two scoring options of the Yakult Sun Kings in the Commercial Realtors' debacle.

In the tertiary game, Purefoods aims to rain its 0-3 tag if it defeats other the former team in the league meets the slumping Alaska Aces. Coach Ryan Gregorio and the T2 flamboys were their last three outings to keep the sole ownership at 4-1.

The scores

GINEBRA (102)—Asaa 0 Caguioa 18, Rivera 14, Jarin 11, Seigle 8, Ahmetov 7, Ardina 6, Dionisio 6, Ilebrado 0.

PUREFOODS (88)—Wilson 20, Gonzalez 15, Miller 14, Hodge 13, Ritualo 29, Ej Cadiente 0, Hidalgo 0, De Guzman 2, Magsaysay 0, Alfonso 0.

Quarters: 27-27, 46-48, 77-68, 102-88

BAP prepares for busy year

INTERNATIONAL exposure for teams and educational and technical is key for officials.

Those will be the themes of the Basketball Association of the Philippines as it goes on aggressive mode this year.

"The importance of competing abroad plus the technical knowledge will help elevate the quality of local basketball, putting us on track of regaining our basketball supremacy," said BAP secretary general Graham Lim, who has been appointed by Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco as chair of the Business and Budget Committee of the coming Manila Southeast Asian Games.

Initially, Lim will be sending 12 referees to host matches to reference to Taiwan's Super Basketball League from April 7 to May 2 as part of the agreement Lim signed with Chinese Taipei Basketball Association secretary general Steven C.F. Kao for an exchange program effective as of this month.

Lim made arrangements with fellow president Lee Ahmee to the Taipeis to close the country's ashes to the 3rd Group Asian-level Championship set Aug. 13-17 in Cebu City.

The BAP will also invite teams from Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei to vie in the inconvention-al tournament to be staged by the National Basketball Conference.

The Cebuano Lindflor team will compete in the MBMA meet and the Hong Kong Sapot Cup.

LIM

Nike Summer League sets April 7 as registry deadline

SEE the ads. Register now.

Budding basketball players, who dreamed of earning a stint into the big league, can now head April 7 to find out fulfilling their dreams by registering for the Nike Summer League, an intensive two-month tournament where the best young rapper stars for the country's best coaches.

The Philippines, together with 20 of the country's finest coaches, is looking the event to provide teenage hoops egads to know basketball.

A great bulk of the projected 2,000 hopeful participants have already shown up at the Nike Summer League registration center. This league is the first of its kind to dwell almost for the 15- to 17-year-old age, agency. Interested players must be born on or after Jan. 1, 1986.

Joy Melvin Mendiola applicants, application forms are available at all Nike Park and Nike Stadium stores and the Nike Summer League Center at 7501 Sgt. Rasmolo St., Poblacion, Makati, Mandaluyong with tel. 3150211 or 09228440808. Forms can also be downloaded at www.nikebasketball.com.ph. Completed forms must be submitted to the NSL Center for scheduling.

"The response to the Nike Summer League has been tremendous, with inquiries coming thru so far as Mindanao and the Visayas," said Dondo Reyes, Nike's marketing manager. "Of course, we don't want our young ballers from Metro Manila and Luzon to be left out in the lines to sign up to join." The teams are slated on April 9 to 10 at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports Center Arena, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Drafting is on April 11 when the Nike coaches will be choosing their players from the respective hospitals.

"We really need this event it seems to innovate the competition and gauge raw talents in the Elite Center but this year," Go added.

Tim's results, Nike's interest in the CDI dying are forced and created in the past NBA Games wagings and are serving 32 to 35 gold medals in the International.

The "Army" has returned to test for the Nike National Open but Go does not discount the possibility that new teams would emerge to overcome the murders of the elite bands.

National track open, invt'l promise to be biggest ever

THE 2005 EDITION of the Nike National Open and Individual Championships on April 14-17 promises to be the biggest to the sport's history with the supported influx of Southeast Asian athletes aiming to get a bell of the Nike former competition into this year.

Advantage in both events, of course, belongs to the host country but the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association is more rounded of the organizational expert than giving the visitor the good fight they want.

"We likely that we will end up with the biggest field ever," said Nilda chief Go Teng Bok. "All the close to 2,000 Filipino athletes from all over the country and we're looking at a really hunting pack."

Coming were our athletes and officials from China, Taipei, Rhodes and Hong Kong as well as fifth countries Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore.

The Philippine Sports Commission is a major backer but Go stress the agency's personal financial difficulties will create a problem to, among other things, the accommodation of foreign and local participants.

"We really need this event it seems to innovate the competition and gauge raw talents in the Elite Center but this year," Go added.

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Spring Oil backing NBC north pre-season tourney

SPRING Cooking Oil has agreed to sponsor the third National Basketball Conference north pre-season tournament starting on April 9 at the Bind Memorial Coliseum.

Sting in the show tournament are BP Sonna Distiller Laguna Lightning Milk, Cebu Gems Intlanted "Tat" Pedlo and Laguna Iris Bonnie Ylagan-ing! Lanot, mayor Freddie Tingi's Binondo Tigers, the Pandacan Jets of Fitz Mayor and other TV host Arlene Tiangco and Aubrey Suarez-run basket Cavite team of Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar.

"This is definitely going to be an exciting series," said Padilla, who is also general manager of Mahalona Soap & Oil Industries, Inc., the manufacturer of Spring Cooking Oil, of the preseason event. "Our (NBC) teams will surely be challenged by the presence of the (PBA) Commissioner's Cup (Southeast Distillery) squad."

Former Olympian Mariano "Jun" Ong, chair of the Mahalona-based cooking oil firm and a shooting champion like his son, Ric, submitted his company's support of the NBC to its newest season.

The participation of the nationals was made possible by Graham Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, which has sanctioned the NBC. The nationals are preparing for the Southeast Asian Games which is late this year.

Other venues of the 10-day tourney are the CB Tiaga gym in Tagaig and the Antipolo-city JG Guillen gym in San Pedro.

The NBC national championship, sponsored by Bioenergy, is set to start on April 23 in the north with the Isis and the Cagayan de Oro area of Misamis Gov. Antonio Calingin as respective hosts.

Other teams which have committed to play this year are Tubig Sagbay, Okinawa Cebu, Mindoro Golden Haven, Ilgan Crusaders, Iloilo Warriors, Bacolod Tigerig Laguna Spring and Baguio Cardinals.

PADILLA

Sad saga for Criselda

If it were an accident as they say it was, what a shame.

I refer to an ugly incident with Ms. Criselda Poblete, a member of the national taekwondo team, at the swimming end of it.

As reported in the papers, Bonie suffered a freak injury in training—accidentally kicked—by Rita Ramon in a sparring session recently.

The injury sent Bonie to a 9-day stay in a hospital, where her jaw had been reattached through wiring.

The sudden pain was, Bonie lost her chance to play in the World Taekwondo Championships in Spain. Bad luck.

The incident just was, she had been ordered to go on a liquid diet for two months. Ayaw pumayat kasi.

I don't know what her favorite food is, but what I'm sure of is, she will not be eating CPA (Chicken Pork Adobo) for the next two months or so. If that's not punishment enough.....(I'm losing the motivation of food to write. Hehe—I don't know what to.

Come now lawmakers Boying Remulla, Jiggy Arroyo and Teddy Boy Locsin saying they will investigate the case and, if needs be, come up here maybe with a law prohibiting the pinning of nose against women in contact sport.

They could be backing up the wrong one and I say, no to the trap, ever heaven!

There is no reason to contact sport at the moment that pin nose against women.

Sparring between men and women, yes.

But a contact sport pitting man against woman?

You must be kidding.

There'll be no automatic stoppage and no one with a nose mind would even dare think of putting up one.

Maybe in the movies, yes, as in Cat-woman versus Batman, or Wonder Woman versus Superman.

But in real life, that's a no-no.

How do you even woo Muhammad Ali's daughter, who is now world boxing champion, fight a man as sports ring?

I've heard about former world champion

World at Pope's bedside

From page A1

both presidents who were fortunate enough to be granted an audience with Pope John Paul II," Bondevikga Gazeta wrote.

In Havana, Cuba, cell-shed Socialist statesman Victor Hugo Perez said: "I don't believe in God, but if there is a God, let him send us a pope as good as this one."

In Istanbul, the lawyer for Mehmet Ali Agca said the Pope's would-be Turkish assassin was praying in his isolated prison cell for the Italian to shut more than two decades ago.

"He's elated to very sad," Lawyer Mustafa Demirbag said in a telephone interview. "His thoughts are with his brother, the Pope, and he is praying for him."

Agca, 47, was "deeply touched" by news of John Paul II's rapidly deteriorating health and "wishes him a speedy recovery," the lawyer said.

Statesman, simple folk

Agca was 23 and on the run from the Turkish police when he opened fire on the Pope at St. Peter's Square as the Pontiff was headed for an audience in an open vehicle. Agca's motive remains unclear.

The Pope was seriously wounded in the abdomen and Agca spent the next 19 years in Italian prisons before being extradited to Turkey in 2000.

Upon his return to Turkey, Agca, who was forgiven by John Paul II, was sentenced to seven and a half years in jail for a bank robbery conviction in the 1970s and to life imprisonment for murdering a prominent Turkish journalist.

Other non-Catholics, from statesmen to simple folk, mourned John Paul, crediting him for ending wars, spreading democracy and combating religious animosity.

'He was American'

In Washington, the White House and President George W. Bush and his wife were praying for the Pope and that the world's concern was "a testimony to his great love."

Special masses were held across the United States, where the Pope has retained a devoted following among the country's 65 million Catholics despite his traditional views against abortion and women priests.

And US Cardinal Theodore McCarrick said: "This certain sense, he was American."

Parishioners at Los Angeles' cathedral wept on being told that John Paul's death was "imminent."

A giant

The regular crowd at noon Mass at the Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago swelled with tourists and mothers.

Vic Pierzchalski, lost is doctor's matter," said Mary Lou Manning, 69, who sat in a back pew. "I love the Pope."

"He's a giant," Jimmy Stevens, 32, said. "He's going to be easier. Beyond words, they call him The Great."

In India, where a little more than 2 percent of the citizens are population are Christians, the Hindu Times in particular "Pope's condition worsens; on

From page A1

new terminal phase" while the Times of India said: "Pope lives between life and immortality—third longest papal reign spans an era."

Three of the five major newspapers in Hindu-dominated Japan carried front page reports on the state of the Pope's health.

Muslims, Jews

Streets of children joined special prayers and sang for the Pope in Malaysia, Pakistan, a mainly Muslim country where Christians make up about 3 percent of the 158 million population.

"The is a person who dedicated his life to preaching all of us that we have a fundamental obligation to respect one another just because we are the children of God," chief rabbi Michael Schudrich said in Poland.

Anguished wait

Radiant Catholics around the world waited and prayed as John Paul breathed toward the end of his 26-year reign. He faced deteriorating Soviet communism and vigorously upheld long-standing Roman doctrines.

Lighting candles, kneeling on cobblestones and weeping, tens of thousands of faithful kept a pre-dawn vigil Saturday outside the papal apartments, watching the top floor windows for clues about his health.

"Stay with us, Don't leave us," the crowds chanted, many people weeping uncontrollably as they stared up at the papal apartments, where just two lights blazed.

"This evening or tonight, Christ opens the doors to the Pope," Mons. Agnus Angelo Comastri said in St Peter's Square as he held a prayer session.

Police estimated that as many as 70,000 people were in the vast, floodlit square at a Saturday dawned.

DNA

"Now he prepares to meet the Lord," Cardinal Francis George said at a Mass in Chicago. "As the portals of death open for him, as they will for each of us ... we must accompany him with our own prayers."

Catholics across Asia flocked to churches to pray for the Pope, even as they braced themselves for the death of the first Philippine President Blanggagal. Aeropuerto said "a leaving source of strength in a troubled world".

Having read news in Roman province, Bishop of Bulanga Isaiaras Villegas said he was "troubled that simple hurtle people cared for the Pope."

In American famous, parliamentarians held a moment's silence after hearing uneven six-media reports that the Pope was already dead.

The Pope's condition was front page news in Italy, where even the small Catholic population, as the world waits Guardian for developments on his fight for life.

Australia, Africa

In Melbourne, Australian Prime Minister John Howard, an Anglican, said John Paul would be remembered as a freedom fighter as well as a great Christian leader.

In Mexico City, Catholics gathered near the basilica of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, in weep before a bronze statue of John Paul II.

Jumping the gun

Rhetoric may be remembered as the season that jumped the gun in crowning John Paul II's death, when Senate President Diego Fernandez de Cevallos called for a moment of silence for the Pope while he still clung to life.

"Pope is human," he later said.

In Africa, where the number of Catholics has burgeoned in recent years, many also expressed misery for John Paul and expressed hope that the next Pope might be one of their own.

Reuters Florian Enger in Kinshasa, Congo, said: "He is the first Pope to have brought together Muslims, Muslims and worshippers of other religions."

John Paul transformed the papacy from an arbiter of religious doctrine to a global advocate for peace, understanding and responsibility.

Tough act to follow

"If the Pope comes from Africa, we will be exhilarating throughout this year," said Johnnie Okay, 32, in Lagos, Nigeria.

But many said that no matter who he comes from, it will be tough to find another Pope as beloved as John Paul.

The mourning after, search for . . .

From page A1

There is speculation that the Polish-born pontiff would choose to be interred in Krakow's Wawel Cathedral alongside Polish royalty.

CONCLAVE: The Cardinals, the so-called "princes" of the church, gather to elect the new pope in the Sistine Chapel, where the College of Cardinals were calling by Michelangelo.

The conclave must begin at least 15 days after the death of this Pope and not more than 20.

The rules of the conclave are under constitution issued by a pope is closed. To counter modern eavesdropping devices, technicians will survey the ancient halls and corridors for any telltale signs of eavesdropping.

The cardinals file into the Sistine Chapel in their blood-red robes and conduct a private Mass before the voting begins. The ballots are read together by each cardinal in turn, who then walk chronicle to make the secret written or blank.

White signals to the world that a new Pontiff has been elected. Only cardinals under the age of 80 can cast ballots or vote. A candidate who receives two-thirds plus one vote.

The election of John Paul II took two days and eight ballots.

THE NEXT POPE: John Paul II changed the rules to make a simple majority sufficient to elect a pope if no one gets the traditional two-thirds majority after 30 rounds of voting. Once a new pope is elected, he must say "Accepto," or "I accept," in order to office.

A senior cardinal will appear at the central window in St. Peter's Basilica and utter a sentence in Latin that ends with "Habemus papam"—"We have a pope." Then he will announce in Latin and announce the name chosen by the new Pope.

Following are brief sketches of cardinals seen as possible candidates to succeed Pope Alfonso Maria Mejia Lopez.

FRANCIS ARINZE (NIGERIA), BORN NOV. 1, 1932: For nearly 20 years the Vatican's point man for relations with Islam, a key element current Pope's efforts to reach out to Muslims.

FRANCIS ARINZE (NIGERIA), BORN NOV. 1, 1932: For nearly 20 years the Vatican's point man for relations with Islam, a key element current Pope's efforts to reach out to Muslims.

He made waves by urging the Roman to allow women to hold top posts normally taken by cardinals, by saying cardinals could be used in the fight against AIDS and by arguing that Islam is flexible enough to coexist in order to integrate there.

JEAN MARIE HENRI, BORN APRIL 14, 1936: Born in Bombay but spent most of his adult life serving as a Church diplomat outside of India.

His status is that of an Asian prelate open to dialogue and Conservative Christian thinking.

CLAUDIO HUMMES (BRAZILIAN), BORN AUG. 8, 1934: Archbishop of São Paulo, a leading Latin American candidate who has indicated he sees himself as he called progressive or conservative.

A defender of the poor and outspoken critic of human rights abuses, he is also considered a theological conservative in Latin America, one of the bastions of liberation theology.

JOSEPH RATZINGER (GERMAN), BORN APRIL 16, 1927: Former top-ranking for the role of doctrinal watchdog which he has defined as "the Vatican since 1981.

He has crushed dissent on liberation theology in Latin America and denounced sexual liberalism in the West. He is one of Pope John Paul's closest advisers.

NORBERTO DE JESUS LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ (DOMINICAN), BORN OCT. 23, 1936: A doctrinal conservative and a staunch opponent of liberation theology which tried to combine elements of the Gospel with Marxism.

GIOVANNI BATTISTA RE (ITALIAN), BORN JAN. 30, 1934: Has been the inner workings of the Vatican better than anyone else after today. This would either boost or help him during a switches to elect the next pope.

Cardinals looking for an act of ministration and bureaucrat to stay at home and calm care of business after the globetrotting papacy of John Paul could see him at the light man.

OSCAR ANDRES RODRIGUEZ MARADIAGA, HONDURAN), BORN DEC. 29, 1942: Another strong Latin American candidate, who is also the youngest man to enter the conclave.

A defender of the poor, he despises Washington's defense of the real solution to the problems of Latin America and of the developing world is social justice.

CHRISTOPH SCHONBORN (AUSTRIAN), BORN JAN. 22, 1945: Name and outgoing archbishop of Vienna, has everything going for him to be a candidate for the next conclave—he is young.

He won't a papacy. He could last three decades or more.

ANGELO SCOLA (ITALIAN), BORN NOV 7, 1941: Has outlined firm Communism and Islamism, two of the cornerstones Church instruments that have enjoyed special support under Pope John Paul, promoted in 2003, he ranks as an open-minded conservative and a good administrator.

DIONISIO TITTAMANIO (ITALIAN), BORN MARCH 14, 1936: Heads the powerful archdiocese of Milan, tops the list of Italian favorites.

His theological conservative, he finds backed Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical "Humanae Vitae" banning artificial birth control.

(3) Reuters

There's no more hope, doctors say

From page A1

The Pope suffered heart failure and a septic shock on Thursday in a dramatic deterioration of his already fragile condition.

Septic shock involves both heart failure in the blood and a consequent over-whelming of the blood vessels. The vessels, which are normally narrow and taut, get wider, causing the blood to pool and can't remain any pressure. That loss of blood pressure is catastrophic, making the heart work hard to compensate for the collapse.

Seeing Pope in bed

"The general cardio-respiratory and metabolic conditions of the Holy Father are substantially unchanged and therefore are very serious," he said.

Navarro-Valls said a new health bulletin would be issued at 8 p.m. (midnight, last night, Manila time).

The bulletin said on Friday that John Paul's heart and kidneys were failing, his breathing was shallow and his blood pressure had fallen dangerously low.

Pompedda, a 75-year-old Italian, came to one of the Vatican's top jobs, overseeing the Church's highest tribunal in his newspaper interviews published on Saturday.

"I went up [to the Pope upstairs] and I said that I wanted to see him before the installation of the Pope and the Swiss Guard sang the hell" Friday morning, Pompedda said. I finished a 60-

From page A1

hit daily.

The cardinal said the Pope's closest aide, British archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz, led him into the Pope room.

'Everything was white'

"Now to the Pope were two nurses who were caring for him" as well as another Polish cleric, and a nun, Pompedda said. Outside the door was the Pope in pontificium, Renato Buzzonetti.

The cardinal told Rome daily La Repubblican in a similar interview that the Pope was lying "on a big bed, covered in white blankets. Everything was white."

The Pope was propped up with pillows.

Pope couldn't speak

"When I entered, his eyes were closed. Monsignor Dziwisz called him, and told him, 'There's Cardinal Pompedda who wants to say hello.' Then John Paul opened his eyes. He wasn't sleeping, he was conscious," the cardinal told Il Giornale.

Pompedda said the Pope recognized him "and smiled at me and looked at me. He tried to say something but without success."

The cardinal added that John Paul spoke Polish and could understand but no longer speak his native tongue.

John said an unconscious drip were being used, the cardinal said, adding he didn't pay much attention to their functions.

'These eyes'

Pompedda recalled "his sweet look which I can't forget" as well as "those eyes, which followed me until I left the room."

Navarro-Valls, the spokesperson, said the Pope stood up to speak on Friday evening.

Yesterday, the Pope probably had in mind the young people whom he has met throughout the world... and remember his referring to them when, in his words... he seemed to have said the following sentence which I heard clearly: 'I sought you, now you have come to me. And I thank you'," Navarro-Valls said.

He added that the Pope tried to say the answer times.

"This is a communication of the words that were broken, but they were actually pronounced by the Holy Father."

Young people

When Navarro-Valls went to the papal apartment around 9:30 p.m. Saturday morning, the Pope's two executives, there were from the papal household and his personal physician were with John Paul.

He said aides had told the Pope that thousands of young people were in St. Peter's Square on Palm Sunday evening.

A Vatican cardinal, Achille Silvestrini, said John Paul was able to recognize him and another cardinal during a visit on March 27, the day before he died.

John Paul "gave some sign of recognizing people," Silvestrini was quoted as saying after paying a call on the Pope with Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran.

"His slow death closes process ... but he is showing strong cardiac resistance," the Italian news agency Apcom quoted Silvestrini as saying.

Reacting

"I found him relaxed, placid, serene. He was in his bed. He was breathing without labor. He looked like he lost weight," the source said.

"When I and Cardinal Tauran were brought into his room by Monsignor Dziwisz, the Pope, who unconsciously in both Italian and Polish, the Pope showed with a vibration of his face that he understood, indicating with a movement of his eyes. He showed his way greeting," he added.

By the second day, the Vatican announced a series of papal appointments including a Spanish bishop, an official of the Secretariat Catholic Church and ambassadors to El Salvador and Panama.

Preparing for the worst

The Vatican apparently was preparing itself for the worst.

Navarro-Valls, in St. Peter's Square, told The Associated Press that cameramen were taking down the canopy on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica, because they had orders to close the square in case the Pope died and his coffin eventually was carried into the square.

Final farewell

One of the Pope closest aides, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was quoted Saturday as saying that when he saw the Pontiff on Friday morning, John Paul was "aware that he is passing to the Lord."

The Pope "gave me the final farewell," the news agency of the Italian bishops conference quoted the German cardinal as saying Friday night.

Tourists and pilgrims streamed since into St. Peter's Square on Saturday and around the world, priests recalled Roman Catholics for the Pope passing. Many expressed hope that his final hours would be peaceful.

In Chicago, Angelini, a professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol University in England, said the chances of an elderly person in John Paul's condition recovering septic shock more than 40 hours are more than 50 percent. "Once that would be to an intensive care unit with very aggressive treatment."

Signs of papal decline

In a sign of the Pope's decline, several cardinals from the United States and Latin America said they were heading to Rome, since the official mourning period following the death of a pope, cardinals hold a secret vote in the Sistine Chapel to choose a successor.

The II Secolo XIX newspaper of Genoa reported that the Pope, with the help of his private secretary Stanislaw Dziwisz, a Polish cleric, wrote a note to his aides urging them not to weep for him.

"I am happy, and you should be so too," the note reportedly said. "Let us pray together with joy."

However, Navarro-Valls said he couldn't confirm the report, even after speaking to the Pope's secretary.

Filipino boxers Thailand-bound

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines continues with its build up for the coming Southeast Asian Games by sending national team aspirants to two international tournaments this month.

A six-man squad composed of fly aspirant Jeffrey Pacinio, bantamweight Rolando Magbanua, lightweight Anthony Mercol, light welterweight Florencio Bunoc and middleweight Francis Joven, will participate in the 27th King's Cup in Thailand on April 8 to 17.

The team bound for Thailand will be coached by Leopoldo Cavinatto and Elmer Bonoan and will be led by ABAP president Monsi V. Lopez.

Another group, a seventeen man coached by Bobby Velasco and Vicente Sevenad and composed of light fly Godfrey Gawaya, fly Nicklo Petrotta, bantam Jean Tipon, feather Jerrod Lubio, lightweight Gerebord Ruanlo, light welter Mark Jason Melligen and returning welter Reynaldo Galido and delegation head Liberato Bayan, will fly to Turkey for the Rome Cosmo tournament in Istanbul, Turkey, on April 19 to 26.

"The results from these two tournaments will be part of the basis for the composition of the national squad which will see action in the Manila Southeast Asian Games in November," said Lopez. "Hopefully, we will get good results from these events after a disastrous stint in Azerbaijan recently."

The Azerbaijan contingent failed to bring home any medal, though the coaching staff learned a lesson or two from the experience.

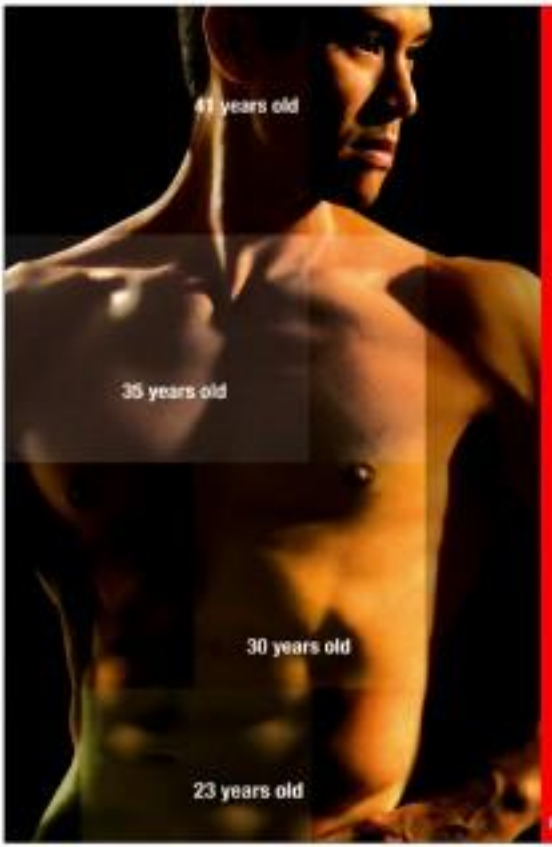
"This is precisely the reason why we are constantly shuffling our homes," said Lopez. "We would like to form the strongest team possible for the SEA Games."

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangubat

BILLIARDS: Jim Rempel Memorial 9-Ball Tournament, 10:00 a.m., 11 noon and 1:00 p.m. (re-entries end 9a.m. only), Bill Spirit's Cafe, Ma. Orosa St., Ermita, Manila.

BOWLING: Philippine Bowling Federation Inc. Invitational Tournament, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Alabang Bowling Center, Alabang-Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City.

Schedule subject to change without notice.



The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Gonzo

Rescuers find survivor 5 days after huge quake

GUNUNGSITOLI, Indonesia—Rescuers dug to save a man trapped in a collapsed house on Saturday, five days after a huge quake struck remote Indonesian islands where up to 2,000 are feared to have died, many crushed under their homes.

Relief workers are trying to reach thousands of people cut off from aid in the area off western Sumatra island next to the epicenter, where massive tremors 8.7 magnitude quake struck on Monday triggered a tsunami that killed or left missing nearly 300,000 people along Indian Ocean shores.

A Singapore rescue team used its keen the man after Indonesian soldiers pointing through rubble in Gunungsitoli, the main town on Nias island, said they heard a voice.

"Help, I'm very weak. I need something to drink," the trapped man was quoted as saying.

The rescue workers had managed to get food and water to the man, who said his name was Hendra, and said they were confident of pulling him out alive.

"He is suffering from dizziness, but his voice is strong," said a Singapore air force spokesman on the scene.

Around 1,500 Indonesian soldiers have been digging through the rubble of houses, but rescuers who pulled several survivors from buildings early on in the week had said there were relatively no hope of finding anyone else alive.

The U.N. has said that 1,000 people may have died in Gunungsitoli alone, and there are concerns the death toll could rise as they reach isolated parts of the island that have been cut off by landslides and flooding in roads. Seattle have also been reported on nearby islands.

"People said members are moving out of town for the first time in a week's too many today," Defense official Alex Bastian told Reuters by telephone from Gunungsitoli.

"Outside town, things are still very tentative."

Nexion estimated that only about 10 percent of the 5,000 sq km island had been assessed by aid agencies.

Nexion is arranging a relief mule (motorbike) from Gunungsitoli on Monday along the road to Teluk Dalam town some 120 km south was undamaged damage to houses, bridges and roads and little sign of aid reaching people.

Thousands of people are facing food and water shortages because the quake destroyed water mains and markets.

"There is no problem with the amount of food. The problem lies with the distribution," Vice President Jusuf Kalla told reporters after meeting local officials on Nias.

Kalla said the government was sending more ships and helicopters from the mainland and would try to restore the water supply within a week. Reuters

CHRISTIAN FERVOR AMID VIOLENCE

Iraq Christian children look onto a cross atop the Marian Church during celebrations for Eid el-Qiyama, the Assyrian New Year on April 1, in Northern Iraq. April 1. A car bomb exploded Saturday in central Iraq, killing five people, including four police officers on patrol. AP

Charles' second wedding low key, far different from fairy-tale first

LONDON—Prince Charles' first wedding drew royalty and heads of state to St. Paul's Cathedral, a million well-wishers in the streets of London and a global television audience of 750 million.

But even his mother, it will show up for his second.

The modest civil union of the prince and Camilla Parker Bowles next Friday makes a poignant contrast to the fairy-tale trappings of his 1981 wedding to Princess Diana.

There, the prince and his golden-haired young bride arrived by horse-drawn carriage, dressed by throngs in the street, the avant the audience of a royal commander, she is dear of every silk taffeta with arch-motif train. Guests included more than a dozen presidents, U.S. First Lady Nancy Reagan and royalty from across Europe. Afterwards, the couple kissed on a balcony at Buckingham Palace before an adoring crowd.

Soon smiles are torn spoil the fairy tale. Ten years later, the marriage ended in divorce amid accusations of infidelity on both sides.

On April 8, Charles and Parker Bowles—the longtime love whom Diana blamed for the breakup of her marriage—will be driven from Windsor Castle to the local town hall, where the scores of other couples each year they will be married in a register before about 30 guests.

The guests will likely wear a suit. The bride a dress by Robinson Valentine, a small London-based company she is known to favor. The ceremony will include Charles' sons William and Harry, Camilla's children Laura and Tom—but not Charles' mother Queen Elizabeth II, who said she was staying away to keep the event low-key.

Television cameras will not record the wedding vows, although TV will broadcast the ceremony of blessing they follows in the church St. George's Chapel. Led by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, it will include prayers, celebrations from Bach and Handel and music of the couple's favorite hymns.

The royal parents will appear for the press on the castle steps before a reception for family and friends, reportedly including a finger food buffet. But the crowds gathered to greet them are likely to be smaller than on that summer's day in London 24 years ago.

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1.3M Mercedes cars recalled over power problems

FRANKFURT, Germany—Car maker DaimlerChrysler AG said Thursday it is recalling some 1.3 million Mercedes-Benz models worldwide to fix a problem with electronics and batteries.

The German-US auto maker said the recalls include six- and eight-cylinder models which will have the voltage regulator in the electronics checked and, if needed, replaced.

On the S-class and CLS-class models, built from January 2002-January 2005, battery control software will be installed. The company already is making cushion on the E, E and CLS-class models since June 2001 would be updated.

The company said the recall was part of an effort to improve its renewed emphasis on its cars and is notifying its customers in writing of the recall.

"We are now producing the best product quality ever and our aim is to ensure that those vehicles in the hands of customers which are the cause of complaints achieve a standard of quality that reflects our highest expectations," Eckhard Cordes, the head of Mercedes-Benz, said in a statement.

The company has set up a hot line for customers in Germany at 1949(0)50, according to CEO Klemens Inc., local general distributor of Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge.

Cordes added: "On vehicles with six- and eight-cylinder petrol engines built between June 2001 and November 2004 the voltage regulator in the alternator is being checked and if necessary replaced. On E-Class models from January 2001 to January 2005, new battery control and software it to enhance the on-board power supply in addition, the braking systems on E-Class and S-Class models from the production period June 2001 to March 2005 are also to be updated."

Sudan to defy UN resolution

KHARTOUM—Sudan on Friday dismissed a U.N. resolution sending Darfur war crime suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and said it would refuse to hand its citizens over to face justice abroad.

In contrast, the two main Darfur rebel groups welcomed the resolution and said they would back sanctions by pushing to the court any members of their groups accused of crimes.

The U.N. Security Council voted 11-0 with four abstentions late on Thursday to refer a sealed list of 51 people accused of crimes against humanity in Darfur to the ICC, after Sudan's military campaign to allow exemptions for U.S. citizens.

It was the first time ever by the council to the Hague-based ICC, set up to try cases of genocide and other major human rights violations.

"We insist that the question of Sudanese being tried outside Sudan is totally and very much rejected and unacceptable to us," said the head of the ruling National Congress Party (NCP), Ibrahim Ahmed Omar.

His party dominates the government and parliament.

Information Minister Abdel Basit Sabdarat said the U.N. resolution "contravened the fundamentals of justice and objectivity and violated the principle of national sovereignty." Sabdarat said the exemption for U.S. citizens from prosecution showed the United Nations was corrupt. The United States fiercely opposes the ICC, saying its citizens would be targeted for political reasons. Sudan has not ratified the ICC.

The war crimes list includes senior Sudanese government and army officials, Arab militia leaders and some rebel leaders and foreign army commanders.

It has remained sealed in the office of the U.N. secretary-general until the Security Council decided which areas they would be referred to.

Sudan for the first time earlier this week said it had arrested 15 officials from the military and security forces for crimes including rape, killing civilians and burning villages.

But analysts said it was exclusively on law for the Security Council, which also strengthened an arms embargo on the African nation and imposed a travel ban and assets freeze on persons who violate a shaky ceasefire in western Darfur. Reuters

Rogue cops may have carried out Brazil massacre

SÃO PAULO—Police increased by [illegible] patrols of brutality and corruption by "bad" cops many have carried out a massacre in two impoverished suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, killing 30 people, state officials said.

Another eight were left brain dead in Thursday's onslaught in Nova Iguaçu and Queimados, crime-infested suburbs 30 miles [illegible] from Rio, Claudia Cazenave, a spokesperson for the Rio Public Safety Department, said.

In Queimados, gunmen gained [illegible] 12 people, some in Bible Square and others in front of a car wash, she said. In nearby Nova Iguaçu, they killed 18 people at a bar, she said. Three of the 18 killed in Nova Iguaçu died of their wounds in hospital.

"There are strong indications that the massacre could have been a reprisal ... for the arrest of eight police officers suspected of killing two men in police station" earlier this week, Cazenave said.

The eight were caught on camera dumping the bodies of the two men outside the station, Cazenave said.

Marcelo Ingles, head of the Rio de Janeiro State Public Safety Department, said authorities were investigating whether police participated in Thursday's attack although he said if so, "we will be implacable."

He said the massacre may have been the work of people "unhappy with our investigations into crimes committed by police officers" and with our efforts to weed out corrupt and bad policemen." AP

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Pistons, Mavs punch tickets to playoffs

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—NBA champions Detroit Pistons celebrated coach Larry Brown's return in style Friday clinching an Eastern conference playoff berth with a 97-84 win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

After missing 10 games due to complications from hip surgery, Brown was back behind the Pistons bench at the Palace of Auburn Hills as Detroit got double-figure efforts from six players led by a 22-point performance from Rodman Prince.

In Philadelphia, Lou Novacek led the way with 29 points as five rookies helped Indiana Minnesota stopped the Philadelphia 76ers 109-93, to secure a Western conference playoff berth with their fourth consecutive win.

In Phoenix, Steve Nash scored 28 points and dished out 11 assists as the Suns turned the Minnesota Timberwolves, 107-96.

In Denver, Karl Malone had 23 points and Carmelo Anthony added 18 as the Nuggets dismissed the San Antonio Spurs 102-84 for a seventh straight home win.

In New York, Vince Carter scored 30 points as New Jersey Nets edged the New York Knicks 95-91.

In Houston, Lee Nailon had 18 points off the bench and Chris Anderson scored 16 rebounds as the Nets defeated Memphis to keep the Rockets, 79-77.

In Cleveland, Pipp Stephenson, Mike Bibby and Corliss Mobley each posted 22 points as the Sacramento Kings cruised to a 123-105 win over the Cavaliers, despite a 30-point performance from LeBron James.

In Milwaukee, Pau Gasol scored 20 points and added seven rebounds and six assists guiding the Memphis Grizzlies to a 93-82 win over the Bucks.

In Orlando, Gilbert Arenas added 18 points, and Larry Hughes chipped in with 20 to power the Washington Wizards past the Magic 111-102.

In Auburn, Kelly Davis scored a season-high 30 points as the Boston Celtics routed the last place Hawks 114-101.

In Charlotte, the Toronto Raptors scored a 119-109 win over the expansion Bobcats.

Reuters

LEBRON (center) battles Kirk (L) Hinrich and Scot Pollard for loose rebounds.

Federer reaches final

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates—A high-level tennis source from Las Vegas said that world number Friday will be no Roger Federer against 19-year-old Rafael Nadal in the final of the Sunday Dubai Open.

"I'm going to go out on a limb," Vegas native Andre Agassi said. "I'm going to say the person who's #1 over the last seven months is the favorite."

Enough to bet against the top-ranked Federer when he has won 17 consecutive finals and 22 consecutive matches. He defended the latter record Friday night by beating six-time champion Agassi 6-4, 6-3 in the semifinals.

"He's playing lovely, shows everybody else," Agassi said. "He has proved that he's a notch over."

Federer is 21-1 this year. He lost only to the world's most dominant male tennis player in 40 matches dating back to the start of the Dubai Open. He only lost once to Rafael Nadal in the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Nadal, 18, plays his first tour up for the first of his match wins over all, the Grand Slam champion against Federer the only time they met—in the final round at this tournament a year ago.

FEDERER: Above everyone else.

"I am not scared the day final," Nadal said in slightly broken English. "Last time against Federer I play very good, because have no pressure, and I play unbelievable, and I really hope I play the same level the time."

Federer will take on the youngest world leader in tournament history after beating the oldest player in the Arabian Gulf.

Agassi, 36, said playing at Roger Federer for the 19th time in a row had the positive effect of making his career feel quite short of the sight on the defensive against Federer, who has 10 victories. AP

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ed, memories will all's greatest post-d Sox were 3-0 n the best-of-seven nship series, then mes to stun New is Cardinals in the

es it keeps going. he Olympic flag. vant as many as I want to be one of pportunity to take ve rings on my fin-

as the star of the nship showdown o win Game 7 for cher Curt Schilling ck with his brava-n ankle injury.
ry action by one om the other, be it ople or Fort Myers ng stays in Florida. th Randy Johnson the major league David Wells pitch-

hnson and signed Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright as free agents to fix their starting rotation. They brought in Tony Womack to play second, and brought back Tino Martinez to play first while trying to find out if Jason Giambi will recover from injuries and illness and rebound from an offseason filled with steroid controversy.

"I miss playing here. This is where I want to be," said Martinez, who helped the Yankees win four World Series titles from 1996-2000. "Playing in Yankee Stadium in front of those fans every day, a sold out stadium, playoff atmosphere every night, you don't get that anywhere else."

New York already has sold 3.1 million tickets at an average price of more than $40, a big reason it can afford MLB's first $200 million payroll. The Yankees are 200,000 tickets ahead of the pace they set last year, when they drew 3.78 million, and 620,000 ahead of 2003.

Up in Boston, where the Red Sox have sold 2.5 million tickets for tiny Fenway Park (leaving only 300,000 available), Pedro Martinez departed for the New York Mets and Derek Lowe for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Wells and Matt Clement were brought in, and Edgar Renteria was lured from the Cardinals to replace Orlando Cabrera at shortstop.

"I don't want for one minute to get lost what we need to do in '05," Boston manager Terry Francona said, "because if we lose sight of that, what we did in '04 isn't going to mean much for very long."

Boston hopes Schilling's ankle, still recovering from surgery, will allow him to pitch by mid-April. The Red Sox count on big seasons again from Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz, Johnny Damon, Jason Varitek and Kevin Millar, more consistency from starters Tim Wakefield and Bronson Arroyo, and more outstanding closing by Keith Foulke. *AP*

Phelps tops 400 freestyle

INDIANAPOLIS—Michael Phelps withdrew from one of his strongest events at the US trials for swimming's World Championships—the 400-meter individual medley—on Friday and then won the 400 freestyle, an event he hasn't contested at a major meet since 2003.

The 19-year-old Olympic gold medalist led the entire way in the 400 free, completing the distance in 3 minutes, 47.79 seconds and winning by nearly 1.6 seconds.

Coach Bob Bowman said he didn't want to push Phelps into two long-distance events on the same day because of a back injury that forced Phelps out of the Short Course World Championships in October. Besides, Bowman said, the schedule at the world championships in July likely would have precluded Phelps from competing in the 400 IM at Montreal.

While Phelps was the headliner Friday, the marquee event had world-record holder Brendan Hansen easily beat former record-holder Ed Moses in the 100 breaststroke. After qualifying one-two, Hansen won the side-by-side duel in 1:00.13. Mark Gangloff was second in 1:01.36, while Moses faded to fifth in 1:02.21.

In other events, Katie Hoff cruised to victory in the 200 IM by setting an American record of 2:11.24. *AP*

an is US college's best player

w Bogut was s US college on Friday w up in Mel-e game nur-tives of Croa-f against the nd college in the United States, a stint at the University of Utah which lasted two years.

Standing alongside the latest trophy in a growing collection, Bogut said, "I have been coached by Australian guys, European guys and American guys and they have all helped me in so many ways. They all tried to make me a better player."

It worked.

Bogut led Division I with 26 double-doubles in 35 games this season. He was second in rebounding at 12.2 per game, and fourth in field goal percentage at 62 percent. He averaged 20.4 points per game (15th in the US) and 2.3 assists while playing 35 minutes. *AP*

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OPINION

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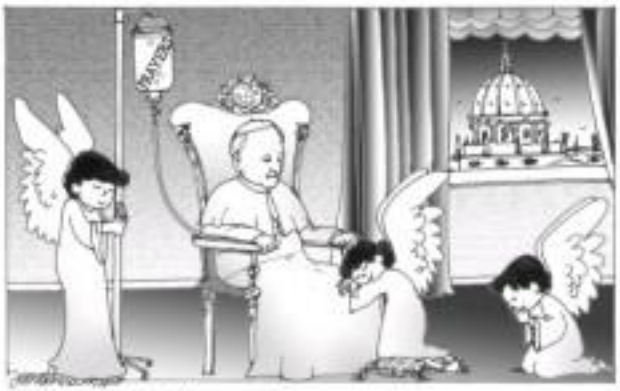

Two curious questions

LET us not dismiss the suspicion simply because it comes from the daughter of Ferdinand Marcos. Let us not say it is itself suspicious because it is a criticism from the opposition. The fact is that it deserves serious consideration, and must as well, even if it has been raised by Rep. Imee Marcos.

The first is from Stanley Ho, whose reputation in the Philippines is none too savory. He is the same person who attempted to control the gambling empire here during the Estrada administration. That plan was foiled by strong public opinion that branded him as a questionable investor with vast business interests in Macau and elsewhere. He invested floating casino floundered in Manila. But before it could open despite the supposed strong support of Erap.

(In a case ahead of Mark Jimenez, another multi-millionaire, who was appointed as a presidential adviser by Estrada, because a presidential appointment was thought by his colleagues who form Bicol from this largesse, and who subsequently succumbed to the United States, where he is now serving time for tax-evasion charges.)

It appears now that Ho's floating gambling den is obsolete, at least that is what Imee is implying. It is not only outdated but is likely to succeed, like a belching dragon with its powers as strong as before, this time with the backing of other sponsors. In addition to the usual Filipino-Chinese businessmen who are always present in supervisory jobs, there apparently is also a new arriving team for various offenses.)

It appears now that Ho's floating gambling den is obsolete, at least that is what Imee is implying. It is not only outdated but is likely to succeed, like a belching dragon with its powers as strong as before, this time with the backing of other sponsors. In addition to the usual Filipino-Chinese businessmen who are always present in supervisory jobs, there apparently is also a new arriving team for various offenses.

One of the highest money-earners in the Philippines is the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which raises in billions of pesos each year from its gambling enterprises all over the country. The three firms, which was previously disallowed but later permitted by the Supreme Court, has created countless of our people who would rather invest their hopes in wishful gambling than in gainful work.

The Report, which advertises that it spends tens of its earnings in public works like schools and bridges and in public education, such as it is, is known as a shilling cow of whoever is in power, especially during elections. But the previous administration drove any reservation with Stanley Ho and since it is not aware of any plan of his to seek Malacañang approval of whatever gambling casino he may be interested in to establish in this country.

A Palace spokesman says that we cannot operate any casino in our country without the approval of the corporation, which has not received any application from him. (As with, however, unannounced by Comelec, unless he expresses that application so far forthcoming. "The casino personnel basis, what is wrong with Mr. Ho? He is, in fact, a papal awardee and is one of the most respected businessmen in Macau."

We will have our unsolicited and (may) appointed to the Report if he does decide to get the authorization of that body to revive his Jumbo Palace Floating Restaurant in Manila Bay. That government's specialist for tourism is what is known as "issuing business as telegraphing one's intent, it seems to be, in any case, an advance promotion of an expected event.

The other matter I would like to discuss in this column today is that of another member of the opposition. He is Rep. Prospero Nograles, who is the minority leader in the House of Representatives. He believes the Senate cannot move legally even with a quorum unless his own chamber is also convened with the proper quorum. He thinks like the Supreme Court.

The issue was resolved by the Court in the case of Guevara v. macaraeg, 15 SCRA 494, when on the 100th day of the regular session in 1986, the Senate adjourned ahead of the House of Representatives, which continued to conduct many meeting until midnight of that constitutional deadline.

A similar problem had happened before but was the subject only of a radio debate between Reclaimed Marcos of the Liberal Party and Atty. Renato Constantino of the Nacionalista Party. Are we prepared Congress to a crime that would be immobilized if one valued was broken, but Nograles said it was like a boat with two oarsmen which could continue to row even if one of them stopped rowing. Ah, said Marcos with equal confidence, because they had a definite part in mind when they started the trip.

The Court consistent likewise. It held that Congress being a bicameral body, it could function legally only if the two chambers acted in unison. It followed that when the Senate adjourned ahead of the House of Representatives, the latter could not also validly and constitutionally, even against its will. The first in this conclusion is that either chamber can control the other by adjourning ahead even if the other wants to continue working. But that is the law of the land as held by the Supreme Court.

The issue may be that time be already most and moderate. But the lesson is worth remembering although not necessarily correct.

Old-time prophet

EDITORIAL

MANY did not realize it then, when he first came on the scene, because he had the vigor of youth and the build of a mountain climber. But as fate or providence would have it, "God's athlete" turned out to be a prophet.

A prophet in the Old Testament mode, that is: invoking the heavens, thundering against injustice, preaching the gospel of reform and repentance.

Especially to his first years as Pope—in Poland in 1979, in Brazil in 1980, and then, astonishingly, in the Philippines in 1981; all large Catholic countries laboring at that time under dictatorships—John Paul II brought hope to millions by speaking truth to power.

In February 1981, for instance, Ferdinand Marcos was at the height of his powers. He had orchestrated an ostensible lifting of martial law the previous month and was preparing the groundwork for a make-believe presidential election the following June.

The papal visit itself seemed, at least as presented by the controlled media, like a benediction on Marcos' brand of "constitutional authoritarianism." But on Feb. 17, in Malacañang, the Pope threw the spotlight on the regimes' human rights violations and anti-democratic measures. "Even in exceptional circumstances," John Paul II pointedly reminded Marcos, "one can never justify any violation of the fundamental dignity of the human person or of the basic rights that safeguard this dignity."

Veteran foreign correspondent Robin Wright, now writing for the Washington Post, vividly recalled the impact of the Pope's unsettling remarks, which were heard by over a thousand dignitaries inside the Palace and by millions of Filipinos on live television. "The papal speech was a writing and humiliating rebuke of Marcos' dictatorship. During Marcos' 21-year rule, no other visiting chief-of-state, before or after the pope, was ever so publicly candid."

(Contrast the Pope's candor with the diplomatic hypocrisy four months later of George Herbert Walker Bush, then vice president of the United States, in his infamous toast to "newly restored" President Marcos: "We love your achievements in democratic principles and to the democratic process.")

A few days after the Malacañang reception, visiting Bacolod City, where the divide between rich and poor was widening and the ties of priests and church workers increasingly grim, the Pope embraced the cause of the oppressed in unmistakable language. "Injustice reigns when within the same society some groups build most of the wealth and power, while large strata of the population cannot decently provide for the livelihood of their families, even though long hours of backbreaking labor," he told a crowd of over 750,000, which included both wealthy sugar planters and impoverished sugar plantation workers. "Injustice reigns when the laws of economic growth and overly greater profit determine social relations, leaving in poverty and destitution those who have only the work of their hands to offer."

And then, most memorably: "the Church will not hesitate to take up the cause of the poor and to become the voice of those who are not listened to when they speak up, not to demand charity but to ask for justice."

The Pope's words were "magic, like music to our ears," Columban Father Brian Gore, a long-time missionary in Bacolod, recalled to UCA News. "For the ordinary people this was terrific, because they've been under pressure, they've been persecuted—now the Pope was on their side."

The old-time prophet's electric effect was felt in many other places too, and by Filipinos from all walks of life. For the first time since martial law was declared in 1972, the majority heard something of the truth about the Philippines.

Many do not realize it now, but John Paul II's first papal visit to the country changed Philippine history—to much the same way his other visits changed the history of Poland and Brazil. It strengthened the Church, preparing it for the role it would eventually play in the thousand days between the Aquino assassination in 1983 and the People Power revolution in 1986. It gave hope to a chapter-ized people, emboldening them for the changes that were to come. Not least, it put the fear of God in the dictator, forcing him to make some changes. These were largely cosmetic, but by a twist of fate or providence more and more people began to see through them.

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Breakthrough

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a guru who ordered the Advaitic one to be cast during the evening worship so as not to disturb the worshippers. After the guru died, the one continued to be fed, not when the cat died, another cat was brought to the Advaitic so that it would be cast during the evening worship. And so it was that years and years later, many travelers were written by the guru's scholarly disciples on the liturgical significance of tying up a cat during worship.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 20, 19-31), disciple Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection. "Unless I see the mark of the nails on His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Thomas must have stupid reservations from his fellow disciples when, but on third sight even, it was precisely his doubt that erased all our doubts about the resurrection. Since it was for Thomas' probing and doubting mind, the resurrection story would have been wound with lots of scholarly erudition and empty tales like that of the Advaitic cat.

The pursuit of truth is never easy. We relate people who sincerely search for it, for they have an important role to play in this world: searching for the truth. What role do you play? Do you espouse the truth? Settle the truth? Manipulate the truth? Spread the truth? Are you an ally or an enemy of the truth?

* * *

I can't help but notice the emotions that swamped the disciples after Jesus' resurrection. There was a lot of joy, but there was also a lot of fear. Their doors were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus' greeting to them was, "Peace be with you." He knew joys, but they're often ambivalent and fragile. We have fears, but there's often enthusiasm, too private like Jesus' greeting of peace permeates all our joys and fears. Are you happy? Be at peace. Are you afraid? Be at peace, for God is a God who blesses all our joys and fears.

* * *

A good question to raise is why Thomas was not with the disciples on the evening of the first day of the week. Where was he? All the other disciples were together, behind closed doors. Was he the only one who learned the essential world? Was he still learning the ropes from his fellow disciples? Or did the other disciples lock him out? A week later, he was already with the other disciples behind closed doors. Were the disciples able to convince him to join them? Fr. Nicky Cardenal, SJ, rightly points out how the role of the community in "a reserve of mutual encouragement in times of fear, confusion and uncertainty." How do we treat people who are in the periphery or outside our circle of family, friends and community? Do we bring people in, or do we shut people out? Are you a curse that makes people ill, or are you a salt that cleans people out?

* * *

If we are not busy enlarging the circle, reaching out and going forth, then we are not being wise as the spirit of the environment. If we are busy putting up our fences and strengthening our defenses, amassing wealth and building us our comfort zones, then we are still living in the world.

* * *

What we need today are people who are, *author in the Lord's army and not people in the secret service* who sign up only during Christmas and Easter. What have you done, and what are you doing to help spread the resurrection story? If you pass on a branch, hit not or e-mail message to others, why don't you pass on the greatest story ever told about a God who loved us so much that He gave His only Son who suffered, died and rose again that we may have eternal life?

* * *

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. More and more, I realize that beyond divine justice and divine love is divine mercy. Justice is giving what we deserve. Love is giving what we don't deserve. Mercy is giving something, whether deserved or not, in all our dealings, may we constantly go beyond justice, and beyond love and move on to mercy, and then, find God. May our common oratorio prayer be "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

* * *

"To those I have wronged, I ask for pardon. To those I have helped, I wish I did more. To those who helped me, I am very grateful." I received this touching message from friends last Holy Week, and I would like to share it with you. Whether you are one of you are (hehe), may we not wait for our final moments before we say these lines. May we say "Thank you, I'm sorry, I love you" at any and every moment of our lives.

* * *

By the way, have you heard of "payback time"? Some people are so engrossed in getting and hoarding, so much so that they forget that they should be busy giving and paying back what God and what life itself have given to them. Life has been good to you? Give back something to life. The world has been good to you? Give back something to the world. God has been good to you? Give back yourself to God. Otherwise, your self-love go back to I Am.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help us to think through the width of my gloom and work. Amen.

Wolfowitz and McNamara

REVEILLE

Raimundo J. Pastores

TWO weeks ago, President George W Bush nominated Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz to succeed Japan Ambassador to head of the World Bank. By tradition, the 184-nation development bank is led by a nominee of the US government. On the other hand, the International Monetary Fund, another multilateral lending institution, is managed by a European.

The Wolfowitz nomination has not been without its critics, mainly because he is viewed as one of the major architects of what is now the two also one of the most vigorous, among the Bush administration officials, in asserting that Southeast Asia could best recover if more democratic, and he predicted that the Thai government would welcome US forces on its territory. Wolfowitz had also been criticized in the US Congress for underestimating the size of the occupation forces needed for Iraq, the amount of long-term US commitment that would be required in reconstruction, and for underrating the continued use of the conflict.

When I was posted to Jakarta after the Edsa revolution, Wolfowitz was on his two years as ambassador to Indonesia. He had a reputation for being very close with other strong country diplomats from the Asian Region and enjoyed a few games of tennis at the residence, which had its own private court. At the same time, he was also known as a specialist in counter-insurgency or defense for points to the administration of the elder Bush. Before his Jakarta posting, Wolfowitz served as assistant secretary for East Asia and Pacific affairs at the US state department, where he was known as having a key role in supporting the Philippines' peaceful transition back to democracy. During his stint in Indonesia, he also witnessed political reforms in the Suharto regime.

In choosing Wolfowitz to head the World Bank, President Bush described him as "a compassionate man and decent man who will do a fine job as the World Bank." With the experience and ambition, Wolfowitz will be able to do a lot more than he could in his new assignment. But like a previous defense official who also ended up as World Bank president, the question is, did he quit or was he weighed out of the Pentagon?

Robert Strange McNamara was one of the whiz kids at Ford Motor Company before he was recruited to join the Kennedy administration as secretary of defense. He was a man of impressive qualities, brilliant at executive analysis—whether it be finances, accounting or records. And he applied this executive managerial ability to the controversial problems of Vietnam. In time, the conflict came to be known as McNamara's war.

Ten years ago, McNamara published his memoirs on Vietnam. In his book, "In Retrospect, The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam," he admitted that "we" were wrong, terribly wrong, that we were to blame for not knowing enough to explain why." Whereas the book was released, it drew bitter criticism from some writers reading him for not being enough to explain exactly to regarding the past to publish it. Such time to realize that errors in government policy.

* * *

On Nov. 1, 1967, in the height of the Vietnam War, McNamara submitted a memorandum to President Lyndon Johnson. It had a recommendation pointing out the gross failures faced by the United States in Vietnam: "Continuation of our present course of action in Southeast Asia would be dangerous, costly in lives and resources, and for the American people," the recommended changing course and adopting specific steps to reduce casualties and transfer greater responsibilities to the South Vietnamese.

The reply to this memorandum was ever recalled. A few weeks later, President Johnson announced that McNamara was leaving the defense department for the presidency of the World Bank.

McNamara said, "I do not know to this day whether I quit or had been fired. Maybe it was both."

When an individual does not know if he had quit or was fired from a job, a safe assumption would be that he had been fired. McNamara must have found his November memorandum extremely unacceptable. The vacancy in the World Bank provided both men with a graceful solution to a difficult situation.

* * *

The last chapter in his memoirs dwells on the lessons from the past with McNamara stating (1) major egoism for what happened in Vietnam, (2) failure to examine our assumptions before committing troops to the conflict, (3) failure to recognize the limitations of analysis, high-technology military equipment, forces and doctrine in countering unconventional, highly motivated people's movements; (4) failure to inform Congress and the American people into a full and frank discussion and debate on Vietnam before initiating actions; (5) failure to recognize that neither our people nor our leaders are omniscient; we do not have the God-given right to shape every nation in our own image or to "we choose; (6) we did not hold to the principle that US military action—other than in response to direct attack—must have the support of Congress and our only to appointment, and international forces supported fully by the international community; and (7) we failed to recognize—but in international affairs, as in other aspects of life, more may be problems for which there are no satisfactory solutions.

* * *

In spite of negative travel advisories issued by the US state department, friends from Wichita, Lindsborg, California are in town checking out the local tourist attractions. Larry and Sharon Turner, with daughter Trina, Philippines who is married to our nephew, Alejandro, are now attending to their first visit to the Philippines. They fly back tomorrow and we wish them a safe and pleasant trip home.

The question

I WAS walking down a whopper with which at a function has fond chats when I overheard a group of trainees in the area under discussing the merits and demerits of "What Brenda Has Got."

"It's a beautiful bra," ... unlike my five-year niece, "and it need women possessing."

Everybody nodded with approval, except a member of the group who looked

like somebody who has not gotten over his being flunking in summer with usage.

"I have my doubts," the latter said. "We don't know what it tells you? It tells you that when you do not have real up to perform women of a full-sized bust and you don't feel well with their world and with themselves. — Bill.

HIGH BLOOD

Carlos G. Contreras

"Undo ... you're missing the point. It actually tells us the purpose of life!" bellowed the next.

"Yeah, what is the purpose of life?" The angst-filled man shot back in a shockingly defensive tone.

Silence.

How refreshing it is to hear the question from a yuppie. All the while, I had thought that the youth are interested merely in acquiring things material and climbing the corporate ladder.

Well, it matters not that no answer was given; what matters is that the ultimate question was asked.

Actually, it is a question that each individual, when in motion elementally desire to unfold, must ask himself repeatedly until his lifetime. It is in the pursuit that answers are in might, in the end, give one's life the decision is entirely worth.

Through the years, I have come across several answers to the question. Each answer is a different way of presenting a simple yet profound idea—an idea that has been dumbed over centuries.

One: The purpose of life is to look for its purpose. Secular and spiritual authorities have couched the question needlessly and have arrived at various answers. The searcher must realize that there is no point in looking for answers in unfamiliar. He has to find his own answer through his own experiences. He must live for some transcendent goal that he sets himself to.

There is not as easy as it may seem for some in the search for the answers, he must distinguish between the answer that satisfies him and the real answer.

Two: The purpose of life is to help all living things around—to help them become what they are capable of being. The apple tree exists in a seed, chemgrown and prospers with the sunshine and rain. After a period of time, the flowers appear. The flowers become fruits. The fruits give seeds. And the cycle begins anew.

Human existence is very much the same, except that the time element is greater. Man, after all, has to contend with a lot of distractions from artists and writers. Like engaging in activities that are quite time, his money and his intelligence. Instructions, a big blue and brown tie, and a paper materials, warm, can become a Mark Joaquin, an Adrian Cristobal, or a Fred Lobo Quinto.

Three: The purpose of life is so much perfection. The daily Bank puns is explicitly. "Be yet-dissolute problem, even as your factory which was I known together."

If man is to be perfect, then he must have to learn and continue to learn. Learning is a never problem-solve, he has to develop his character to create an image of himself as a physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually humble person, perfect in every way. He should go about his Father's business helping those who have less than he does, helping out people who are in need, loving one another, and leaving things in a better state than he found them.

This is a tall order. Man will complete this to achieve perfection demands the experience and wisdom of a lifetime. But "don't fit," as friend Ernesto puts it. Who says it's easy to be human?

Every man must find his own answer to the question. If he fails to do this, it is certain that he will be engulfed with overwhelming despair at the meaningfulness of life.

Carlos G. Contreras, who is dean of the Adelfa evaluation, around the area, is an environmental activist.

The answer?

Brenda Mercado Abat

I WAS no hero or be a dreamer. I take everything as they come, like that thing in life called retirement.

Retirement is one of those milestones that some people are inclined to mark with some degree of importance, like the first day of school, first communion, graduation, first job, wedding, first car, anniversaries, etc. Some do it in an elaborate fashion. One day you're working, alert under pressure, then all of a sudden, it's freedom unbounds. I can now fly to places without thinking of the words I'd leave behind. I've got all the time to relax, enjoy with my family and friends.

Retirement is for sure a "drowning for family home party"—a big blast and then it's over. Everybody with my own children. For professor scholars, and champions. But I was not able to fill a finger to make my own children without brains?

This came a happen of my life ... saving from working less more density of my life and my family's hearts—is also the beginning of a long-lasting effort with certain home choices, especially with the income and income I'm now thinking of the years when I'd be a grandmother. That's why I'm doing my best to preserve my health.

At the same time, I have to choose which recipe of life I'd have for seven days. One thing I cannot regard, I'd seek God's guidance for this. Then I'd do the rest. I believe that when we ask from God our plans, they are granted.

This question from Ralph Waldo Emerson sounds appropriate to the every quest for another career: "To be successful in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else, to be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you someone else, is the greatest accomplishment."

For now, I'm dying to be a writer, to shape my thoughts in a words in my own little way. Quite late, but who knows? Making choices is a lifetime undertaking. The right choice leads to happiness while the wrong one leads to misery and despair. Choices are made in our always the right one, and the best choices are not always easy.

But rules and life is a kind of mind? There are always no-no and dreams. As they say, life is what happens when you're busy making other plans.

Or, maybe, writing as a career isn't for me. I now find contentment unending to my many garden, looking at my love hens which are growing in number.

Today, for me, is steps of a leaf, I fly, and tomorrow, I would sing lightly the melody in the forests of the Clean Teachers.

Brenda Mercado Abat, 60, is a retired home teacher.

Our wise (and wild) old woman

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ALL evening, we kept toying our alternatives to the "What Old Woman" title bestowed on Remmy Mendoza on the occasion of her 70th birth anniversary.

Someone suggested a "Walking Bel memory," but as we couldn't imagine our perpetually smiling friend doing the grocery stuff, it didn't quite get matched. "Wild Old Woman" was also suggested, and at the raucous celebration were six, so-did "Wild Old Woman," "What about "Wo and Wild Old Woman"?

Whatever the title, the men's consensus stood on its claim that Remmy is 70, Remedios Iguina Ribiero is "Only 70!"

I have known Remmy for over 20 years, which is a long time by any standard. But as the birthday girl reached for my turns for her, there were gasps of surprise from those who had known her when we were called sit. One of them was none other than Mari Rasella, who both congratulated and commiserated with Remmy for reaching that milestone. "No one looks, no kind of kind," she mumbled, as I was at a recent reunion, as belonging to the Jurassic Age" of our profession," quipped Mary. "On the other, as a friend in her 40s told me, whenever your name is mentioned, people say, 'Is she still alive?'"

Another friend from the 1960s' who stood up was Mayen Mercado, currently the executive director of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). "Remmy was my mentor when I was a cub reporter, which means she must have been just a child then. And indeed she was. She is one person who put on a group of Asian social luminaries (among them Indira Gandhi's sister) once "I was terrified of her, but I learned a lot and picked up one tip helping validate the results of surveys they were doing," Mayen remembered.

AS MARIANNE Aldridge or Mayen's reminiscence was that the fortunate, which consisted formerly and her sister among them, all ended up travelling some discussions at all, all of whom just happened to be political.

Perhaps the most famous Remmy story here married her more than 30 years, hustling in Manila on a lovely harvest with a huge garden and a

Graham Greene left off after she was fanned out of the country and line to exile in the United States. She has written extensively on the Philippines and her two books have given her "Author Remmy."

And, of course, there were her years in Philippine, of which Remmy is one of us "founding mothers" and "mothers" of her children's rights movement, women (and dancing!) as well were among her closest friends. Remmy's office on the women's bodies head Dr. Carol Sobrevilla and Dulce de Rosa of Ateneo College and of the Coalition Against Trafficking of Women.

Of course, we allowed a man to get a word in edgewise. Ding Ayala was there in his office on the meanings of Remmy's name ("Remedios," promising a remedy for both personal and historical ills), she's referring to a declaration made some years back by ambulant consul de Quiroz proclaiming undying devotion to Remmy Pepe Diokno. And, long before Conrad "Discovered" Remmy, he had loved her only and well!

* * *

INDEED, as Ging Quirino Belen, another Philippine "founding mother" and now peace adviser to the President, declared in her testimonial, "Remmy is magic!"

What with her writing, wit and wild, random behavior and "batter pudo-pah" Christian," feminist and dramatics, gender studies professor and student extraordinaire, Remmy Kilkon is not perfect, we know. But one thing, we have this assurance: she is not afraid of making her utterances, choosing as many choosing by way of facial expressions and dramatic gestures. For only since she was barred as Sister Remmy, during a talk, she said, was when Karen Tañada invited her to speak before an audience of blind women!

But we, her friends, consider her a national treasure, and the least because she is a model of a wonderful woman. So I said to Mercado pasty: "Within what 70 looks like, then I can't wait to get there!"

Billboard nation

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SOUTH 1,500 parliamentarians from Asia, Europe and the Americas converge in Manila today for the 107th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), whose first meeting was held in Paris in 1889.

From the moments they step out of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, they will see a tourism campaign poster featuring Senator Loren Legarda and Monica Manilla's drama, they will have an image of an impoverished people drowning in adversity, misery for material goods they can only fantasize about but will likely never acquire in their lifetimes. Their will see the largest signs and billboards that Filipino politicians have put up to keep in touch with their constituents: "Congratulations to the graduates of 2001" and "This project was made possible by the joint efforts of Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile and Mayor Alfredo Lim, and Mayor Jo and so." Our visitors will think they have come upon a private bank society that equates economic growth with unemployment, inflation, and government with political prosecution.

Now, they may be right. Some economists believe that we do that's for sure there everything possible to make it ugly and unlivable. In normal circumstances, ugly economy not just our poverty but our loss of pride and self-esteem as a people. Ugly is the way the poorly maintained city centers in all of Asia. Its surface, an unsightly skin of cement and asphalt, covered in once a terrible image of the cultural of the road engineers we have and a city planners who are the enemy of government corruption and neglect.

The 1986 People Power Uprising gave Silas a touch of history. Many of our visiting parliamentarians will probably want to see that patch of the Edsa shrine where it all began. They will need to use their imagination to visualize what we have buried. Today, Edsa is nothing more than a long corridor through which one can see billboard after billboard. We are indeed a strange people.

If our public officials think they have made

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jperezmd@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Bautista Jr.

How can graduates make a difference?

GOING abroad "either to work or register" is the most urgent personal concern of 10 percent of Filipinos, according to results of a survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. last month. The figure rises to 16 percent in Metro Manila.

The urge to leave the country is more prevalent among those belonging to the high-income ABC group (usually the skilled and college graduates) than among those in the low-income groups D and E.

There is a good reason to leave the Philippines. Jobs are not only scarce, but are also generally low-paying. The unemployment rate hit 11.3 percent (equivalent to 4.83 million) in January while the underemployment rate reached 16.3 percent (9.1 million).

Most of the 362,000 students, who are projected to graduate from colleges this school year, are expected to join the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed.

It was no surprise than representatives of the Class 2005 of the Ateneo de Manila University had asked a former education secretary a month before he delivered the speech at the graduation ceremonies to give them a reason to stay home instead of seeking their fortunes abroad.

But finding a job and becoming successful are not enough if these don't translate into the greater welfare of the country.

If one decides to work within the system, part of the challenge is to influence the direction of the country to make it more democratic, more just, and more capable of providing the people with the opportunities for a decent life.

Congratulations and confessions

By Edilberto C. de Jesus

As graduates of formerly free but fee-subjugated schools, we could wonder whether we should celebrate or commiserate with you.

Before, and I say this to all humility and with deep regret, that most people would not be hired to do anything unless they were literate. In the twenty-two years that martial law was in force, the country's literacy rate went from 72 percent to 82 percent. Today, it is 93.4 percent.

I hope they will agree with me on this, that they will celebrate in recognition of the freedom of literacy the person-to-person enrichment that it encourages. Without literacy, we are doomed to unemployment. With increasing frequency, in some of our communities abroad (never, as we expected, their expressions of sympathy have become fresh prizing and patronizing).

Those who had studied in the Philippines, not in the Ateneo, but in places like the Adventist and Centro Escolar, FEU, Mapua and UE, are the most successful. They speak with an assurance because of the Filipino friends they had made and gratefully acknowledge how much they learned in the Philippines. Those who leave the country first are not quite so confident to talk about what is happening in the Philippines and to the Filipinos. But their reflections on what they said their countries have achieved, however modestly conceived, serve as a silent reminder and a rebuke of what we have failed to accomplish.

Not without cousins of irony, I think to myself: imagine if they had studied at the Ateneo. How much more bright they have done for their country in community, how much less!

Failure in education

There is also some irony in this because that the Ateneo had failed to confer on me my other (a doctorate degree, honor is usual). My answer as secretary of education decided to extend upon the decision. But I must confess that I never received congratulations for this decision. But I must confess that I never received congratulations or condolences for this post. In your home, there is a Constitution or appointments, and the honorable members of the committee found my training; it was perceived to deserve that training received without confirmation was some kind of distinction, deserving of congratulations.

If deeper irony lies in the fact that the Ateneo graduates never applauded democracies but now badly our generation and those before us have failed our people. Until the mid-'70s, the country had an 11-year public basic education system. To my knowledge, no other country that, upon gaining autonomy from the colonial power, actually reduced the investment in basic education, raising both the cycle to 10 years.

My government was not responsible for this decision, but we all accountable for not having done anything about it. If we had been able to add another year to the basic education cycle, we could have, at least acquired what we had 70 years ago, and we would at least have caught up with attainment. To day, all the other countries in our region, in addition to promoting universal basic years of schooling, now require 12 to 13 years of primary and secondary education before entrance to university studies.

Soft power

Despite your independence politics, technocrats, backed by insurgency, communism and separatism, the Philippines remained, and perhaps the "Oh, an object of admiration... a re-spected power for academic and governmental education, culturally diverse and diverse, globally eminent, although in command of English, the only Catholic country in the region, and the dominant oil democracy in the developing world. We never had much of confidence from us because of, but we had a good bit of "self-esteem" more, destruction from consumerism but from the respect Filipino scholars, artists, writers, professionals and even some politicians enjoyed in the region and beyond.

Today, even your Ateneo diploma will not ensure attendance except at some of your residences for graduate studies abroad. We have to negotiate to get admission and recognition for the graduates of our professional schools. And whether we are truly democratic or even Catholic have become subjects of debate.

We have witnessed a public servant, authorized on the principle of our common consent, to influence functioning required an educated electorate, and the failure of our educational systems to embody regulations into the fragility of our democracy. Some political analysts report already that educated and many politicians do not really want educated voters. They need voters who can write their names, but others who prefer outspoken clients who are easy to manhandle, to corrupt or to control.

Let us concede that this is an easy to criticize time that applies only to a few. But my recollection of many the, the country's both local and national level politicians during rent or election monetary spending. I can assure on the degree of one hand the same robust any of them asked me, relations any campaigning or my part, about the quality of graduates from the public schools. They were more concerned mainly in my budget section the appointments of specific officials and sometimes, even of specific members of the police or military. Indeed, the children were actually harming the not necessarily earliest as an issue.

Commitment to quality

Let us also accept that respecting the quality of the educational system is a long-term goal, perhaps beyond anniversary-to-anniversary considerations of even Catholic leaders. Some

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Emerenciano

LONG, ELUSIVE SEARCH

Comfort women dying without justice

By Tonette Orejas
PEI Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, Pampanga—They were old and weak when they, in 1998, first broke their silence on the sexual abuses of Japanese soldiers in November 1944.

Nine years ago, these women, who called themselves Malaya Lolas (Free Grandmothers) were 93. In the last 15 months, four more had died, bringing to 26 the number that ranks.

"We're dying without seeing justice," said Lita Vinuya, the spokesperson of Malaya Lolas, during the reopening of the Nuesa Cycle 2005 in Barangay Mapaniqui here on Saturday.

The village, bombed and burned by the Japanese troops during war, was part of the six-day trek on bike by Japanese and Filipino peace advocates recounting the sufferings. Death March in 1942 and other horrors of World War II in central Luzon provinces.

Only three boys in Pilapanagan escaped the burning and killing of the village's men in 1944. Ten days behind the girls and women to the Buenos Aires(on Lolos called Bahay-na-Pula) in San Salvador, Bulacan, a bittersweet reunion of the village.

There, the mass rape began, lasting for weeks and months, ending only in the escape of the women, forces to relief.

"We silently and painfully live through the trauma and humiliation," she said.

About 20 of them fled and married and were left in the care of their relatives now.

Several have been widowed and now rely on their children's support while the rest survives on their own sweat, selling farms or selling food each to feed.

Nearly, an average of three women die in Vinuya's group.

The latest to die from the group were Rhenna Tudo, Isaro Pamintuan, Rosario Alcaraz and Bella Arguas.

Vinuya said the other died of cancer, tuberculosis, heart ailments and diabetes.

Help came mostly from the Japan-based Violence Response Network, Pagbabalik-loob Kalookan and other women's groups.

Gov. Mark Lapid and Board Member Lilia Pineda have responded to their appeals for medical support.

The fight for justice has been slow.

The Hiketei Lolas have yet to hear from the Supreme Court on their petition asking the government to declare the Japanese crimes against humanity.

Justice is slow and death is claiming its toll by one. We're asking God to give us more years, additional will and strength to see this fight through victory," Vinuya said.

Sumomo's Ishiro Hirano and his group has passed the support of 67 members of the Japanese Diet (parliament).

Hirano said his group has blocked efforts to erase Iran's history books. The plight of comfort women, victims of armed slavery, which, he noted, was adopted as a policy in the Japanese military time.

Sumomo conversion to support the legislation of the Hiketei Lolas. Sumomo members, Hirano said, have not stopped in the last 10 years lobbying for justice on behalf of victims of military abuse.

Hirano, Socorro Ozawa and Hagamoto Kodomo ended their hearing with profuse, sincere words of apologies for what Japanese soldiers did to Filipinos villagers during the war.

Negros Occidental rejects 4-day workweek

BACOLOD (23°)—The Negros Occidental provincial government will not implement the four-day workweek because it operates on the front lines in the delivery of basic services to the public, Gov. Joseph Marañon said.

"We will adopt the traditional five-day work week schedule decreed by the majority of the employees of the provincial government will not implement the four-day workweek because it operates on the front lines in the delivery of basic services to the public, Gov. Joseph Marañon said.

"We will adopt the traditional five-day work week schedule decreed by the majority of the employees of the provincial government since the call to cut it down to four days as Administrative Order [17] is not mandatory for local government units," the governor added.

Marañon says the several governors in the Visayas who decided not to adopt the four-day work week, the first was Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia-Garcia.

She, Marañon said, many of the provincial government employees are engaged in field services. Since the targeted four-day workweek is applicable to office-based employees, the plan will benefit only a small segment of the provincial employees and will not achieve its desired objective, he said.

"Besides, if they adopt the four-day workweek, no Gears of the provinces are likely to connect their business at 7:30 a.m. and from 5 to 6:30 p.m. considering that they come from the east (town and cities)," he said.

Under AO 117 signed two weeks ago by President Macapagal-Arroyo, employees of national agencies will only work for four days each week in April and May.

Marañon said in the case of Negros Occidental, energy saving and other cost-saving measures have already been implemented and there was no need for the four-day workweek.

(Ucha D'Gomez, PEI Visayas Bureau)

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Body of abducted business exec found in Cavite town

CALAMBA CITY—A business executive who was earlier reported abducted by unidentified suspects on his way to his office was found murdered by residents of a far-flung village in Amadeo, Cavite on Friday, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director, identified the victim as Manuel Concha, 52, general manager of Industrial Underwater Inc. and a resident of La Anya Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Rosales said the carnapped blood-led body was found tied and dumped along the grassy area of a coffee plantation in Sitio Balong Kabayo, Barangay Bangal at around 11:30 p.m.

He said the body bore three bullet wounds in the head and two in the back. He said there were indications the victim was brought physical torture before he was killed.

Rosales said the carnap suspects reportedly shot his way last year also on March 30 when he left his residence for work in Barangay Concepcion Tanza, Bacoor City at around 4:30 a.m.

"Since he left that morning, his family has heard nothing from him. So they thought something bad had happened to him," Rosales told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Rosales said he refused to believe that the victim was kidnapped for ransom.

He said it was possible that Concha's decision to unseat some of his firm's employees earlier this year may have something to do with the killing.

"I don't think he was kidnapped because there were no calls demanding for ransom. He was supposed to meet his human resource staff before he began the meeting he was reported missing. They were to discuss matters regarding the company," he said.

Rosales said they were investigating suspicious who were detained from duty work. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOLA Rosa Dimosanto, 84, was the oldest among the contestants during the tobacco festival in Candon City.

Top tobacco rollers honored in Ilocos Sur

CANDON CITY—To celebrate Ilocos Sur's prized cash crop, local officials rolled out the red carpet to honor the province's top tobacco rollers during one of the activities celebrating the week-long Tabako Festival here.

Filomena Radlos, 59, a resident of Concepcion Sur in San Lucas town, won the longest rolled tobacco contest.

Radlos said she started rolling tobacco in 1970 after she got married. She said before she learned the art of rolling native tobacco she was contented only with preparing leaves for rolling.

Her winning tobacco, rolled in 19 minutes, measured 770 centimeters.

Eighty-six-year-old Rosa Dimosanto topped rolling and rolling tobacco 40 years ago when she joined the Seventh Day Adventists. But she returned to the limelight on Friday when she joined the first tobacco rolling as the youngest tobacco contest.

Council by her children and local officials, Dimosanto was able to roll 10 cigars from native and Virginia tobacco leaves in 20 minutes. Though she failed in comparison with winners, 65-year-old Josefina Salandre of Barangay Kalongbuyan, who rolled in 25 hand rolled cigars, Dimosanto was honored as the oldest participant.

Salandre said she learned tobacco rolling from her father when she was in grade school.

Tobacco rolling is indeed a dying trade as almost all of the 12 participants are aged between 60 and 80.

But Antero Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson said the age of the community showed that not all smokers die young.

"The contestants showed their tobacco can make us live longer," Singson said.

In fact, some of the contestants started smoking their rolled tobacco even before they were married and unmarried.

After the contest, Radlos were rolled a cigar as big as a child's thigh. Later, the tobacco rolled passed off the cigars to make 10 bundles cigar.

Former Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus in his book, "The Tobacco Monopoly in the Philippines: Bureaucratic Enterprise and Social Change, 1766-1880," said women were taught by the Spaniards to spot 'haciendas.

Frumb Gerona, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 cops among 12 held for extort

CALAMBA CITY—Twelve suspected members of a syndicate, including two active members of the Philippine National Police who were accused of detained Bora leader Pat Mirasol, were arrested by posing as restaurant rebels and demanding money from their victims.

The arrest came when one of their victims sought the help of police in Barangay Bucal.

Supt. Edmund Tuale, Calamba city police chief, identified the suspects as PO2 Ernesto Pitro, PO2 Erwin Intengan, Rolando Ayala, Jaime Mangat, Cesar Pascua, Hipolito Aquino, Donald Apolit, Michael Gabriel, Antonio Medical, Aaron Flores, Joseph Reyes and Jamito Erdinio.

Pitro and Intengan were members of the Special Action Force, an elite police unit patrolling Bilibid in his jail in Camp Bicutan in Taguig City, Tuale said.

Tuale said at around 3 p.m., their victim received a phone call from a woman Bora Bonan seeking police assistance to free alleged New People's Army members jailed PWOOD in custody.

He said the victim was able to call police when the suspects allowed him to use the toilet in a mall.

"After talking to Bonan, members of our SWAT team immediately planned the operation to apprehend the suspects. Luckily it did not end with a violent confrontation," Tuale told the Inquirer.

Pitro the CIDG operatives barged into the office of the victim. Tuale said they caught one of the suspects pointing a gun at Mirasol's head.

He said the suspects tried to resist arrest. "But they were outgunned by our men." Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INQUIRER Mindanao

She died for the cause of small farmers

By Joey B.B. Lozares
Tacurong City

FELLED by what many people believed was a professional assassin on the evening of Good Thursday, Marlene Esperat, 45, columnist of a local weekly in Tacurong City, died fighting for the cause of poor farmers in her province of Sultan Kudarat.

Esperat, a licensed chemist, once worked as laboratory chief of the regional Department of Agriculture in Cotabato City and it was during her stint there in the early 1990s that she saw the significance of soil analysis as a prerequisite for achieving full farm productivity. She strived to put up a laboratory for such a purpose to literally cluster to the farmers.

"It (the establishment of a soil analysis laboratory) was the only reward she had hoped for in her life," said the slain journalist's elder brother. He requested not to be identified out of fear that he might be another target of Esperat's killers.

Organic fertilizers

"She saw how small farmers buy synthetic fertilizers at prohibitive prices without even knowing if these are appropriate for their farms. The result is disastrous," he said.

She had predicted that through proper soil analysis, poor farmers could increase their yield "from 30 cavans of rice per hectare to as much as 100 to 150 cavans," he added.

Esperat espoused the use of organic fertilizers and better marketing methods "that would eliminate the grip of middlemen over the small farmers," her brother added.

It was in pursuit of that dream that she saw the obstacles—massive graft and corruption in the government bureaucracy—that she wouldn't expect to be a part of.

Bribe offers

A deeply religious person, Esperat had been offered bribe to keep quiet. She had only one simple response, her brother said. "It's not for myself that I live, but by God's grace."

In 2000, Esperat maximized a regular radio program dedicated to agriculture, to help raise the farmers' productivity.

"Her program was not short for people in power who were threatened by her exposés," the elder brother said.

A marvelous person, Esperat had kept files of all those she believed were involved in graft and corruption in the expense of the farmers, her brother said. "She had offered her life just before the Christian world commemorated Jesus' last supper, crucifixion and death."

Three days before she was murdered, Esperat had confided to him a dream she had the night before. "There will be a clean-up," referring to the massive graft and corruption that she had campaigned against.

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Favorites inch closer to Nestea Beach Volley finals

THE FAVORITES yesterday continued their winning ways in the 9th Nestea Beach Volleyball Open elimination at the La Salle Greenhills courts court.

In the men's division, Ely Bendijo, Ike Ramon Cruel (07 Olympic tandem) had their respective opponents for identical 2-0 encounters that allowed them into the quarterfinals.

Bendijo, the reigning NCAA champion, dumped rambler Ely Jude Collego, 21-11, 21-11 against St. Francis of Assisi, 21-15, and EP Dilmore overwhelmed Pinpinian Philippines in overtime, 25-23.

In the women's division, PEU Manila, a re-to the reigning NCAA champion, and Ely Bendijo, the NCAA season top, completed a three-game sweep of Dem-silme in the final.

Bolstering an Online tournament, PEU dominated Achievers, 21-19, while Ely Bendijo needs short work of UP Diliman, 21-7. The PEU and Ely Bendijo lady spikers moved to victory's quarterfinals where they will be joined by six more teams. The Elite volunteers in the afternoon will earn down to the Rizzy stage deadline 3-to-7.

The game goes with the men's division today. From 10 teams, 8 will be reduced to eight by noon and to four late in the afternoon when survivors also running tickets to semis Rizzy to.

Only a 3-0 record serves as an automatic ticket to the quarterfinals. In case of a tie, game is 2-1, the quotient system will be applied.

Sporting 1.1 seconds in the men's division were La Salle, which defeated St. Jose Rizzy, 26-24, and St. Pamela, 41-1-0 and also playing as of presstime were PSITI, Pinpinian Agricultural School and Achievers.

The six-quarter finals slots in the women's side is coming among Ateneo (2-0), Achievers (2-1), University of Baguio (3-1), Lyceum (3-1), St. Jude (3-1), Letran (3-2), University of Asia-Pacific (3-2), A. Louis (3-2) and San Sebastian Cavite (0-2).

This event's sponsors are Iguido, Milano, Cebu Pacific, Hey Jude Pesorin, La Salle Greenhills, Villa de Oro, Coppertone, Bench, Rizzy Bagoyo, Power Plant Mall, Bellwood Sports Café and doubleclick.com.

Champion teams will receive P100,000 each and P60,000 worth of sports equipment for their respective schools.

Sayer gains boys' final vs Magdas

By Hsiang R. Cedric

MARTIN Sayer of Hong Kong and Adbullah Magdalo emerged a title showdown for the boys' division of the 10th International Lancer Invitational Junior tennis championships after Indonesia and eventual three-set victories over organizer Laos yesterday.

Sayer powered on a strong baseline game of strategy to a come-from-behind 5-7, 6-4, 6-0 victory before the Eastern Magdalo ended Japanese Shuhei Uemori's dream with 6-4, 7-6, 6-2 victory in the other semifinal.

The sixth-seeded Magdalo won in a marathon two-hour and 20 minutes, breaking Uemori in the third game of the deciding set.

Sayer, on the other hand, took advantage of the lanceliner's exhaustion, winning in just an hour and 40 minutes.

"I just couldn't move out there anymore," said Uemori, who competed in the same boys' event.

Qeoh, who handed out Indian No. 1 Yash Sholeen on Friday, lately tried to fight on, but lost broken for a 6-2 deficit in the second set after six deuces.

Taiwan, meanwhile, put two players to the gold finals after top seed Chun Hung-yu and third-seeded Hsu Hsu Jian took command over their opponents.

Chun, ranked seventh in the world, showed off a lethargic second serve, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2, over 6-seeded Indonesia Rasmen Ayee.

Hsu made the finals without dropping a set, last 6-1, 6-1 victory of countryman Hsiang Hsiang Hsiang downplaying the form that she has displayed in the tournament which earned the 9th ranker in the world by the ITF.

The finals start 8 p.m.

MARTIN Sayer of Hong Kong serves against Samuel Gratz of Australia during their semifinal match.

Bad shots derail Valle; Reyes alive

THE TIDE was made united to touch Hills.

Two bad shots on ball changes he and Andrew Ian Roy reality was the undoing on Saturday as he bowed to Chinese Taipei's Ying Chin Shun, 9-6, in the quarterfinals of the second leg of the San Miguel Asian Golf Tour at the Batangas Billiard and Recreation Center in Calamba, Indonesia.

Valle's defeat left one Filipino standing in the BIGGEST event organized by ESPN Star Sports—Elmo "Bata" Reyes, the top seed who was facing another Taiwanese, Kao Ri-Cheng, on the other side of the bracket.

Coming off a Sikhook last winning 9-8 upset of second-seeded compatriot Francisco "Tampo" Ramonsolo in the second round Lato Palaka, the unseeded Valle, backed by Power Sports, rallied from two holes down to take a 4-3 lead after eleven strokes in the 11th frame.

With the match tied at 5-5, the winner of the first Tour leg in Singapore mulled a shot on the 9 Gold to the winner pocket while seeing a bridge. The star Gold containing triumph off the rail for closed it missing alongside it.

Ying, ranked 39th in the world and the only non-Filipino entrant on the 16-man Gold Tour order, was at the table for a 6-0 lead. The 48th-seed allowed three of the next four racks—nailed by a great jump shot—to the 7 ball in the eleventh frame for 6-6 advantage.

Mr. Chin wrestled at Valle stifled himself on the third frame by stretching a shot on the 6-ball, which would have been comfortable after a poor 8-ball follow that Ying had given pleading to 7 Mr. chin at the No. 3 featured off the ball. It was supposed to be a follow shot to prepare for the 6-to-7 and Valle at the event humiliated by Jose Miguel Beer.

SPORTSWATCH

Mild Seven features Bahrain GP

THE MILD Seven F1 Club will celebrate the start of the prestigious F1 season across country, the Bahrain Sakhir to Grandprix at Fort Bonifacio's southline PBA Tennis Bar at Mezzanine to Ortigas Center this Saturday at 9:30 p.m. highlighting the live broadcast of the Bahrain F1 GP. The 2005 Speed Zone 400 Turbo Endurance Championship Series will also have its second Sprint race at Speed Zone Clarkfield 1 a.m. The Speedzone series has two destination trips, currently the Indonesia qualified Sprint drama competitions, which coincide with the F1 race days. The Mild Seven F1 Club is open exclusively Mild Seven Speedzone 9150 Santa Rita Crossing Zone, Punta Fortaleza and beyond. 200. To date, MF Turbo and Speed is the official sales distributor. Any RC Land Mobile 150 for 1150. The Mild Seven F1 Club is open to all race enthusiasts 18 years and older. Membership fee is charged and to join the F1 Club, interested fans will only have to fill out and join the members. For more details, contact MF Turbo at (632) 632 1171.

NFGB hosts big derby

THE 3rd DUMAL Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), an umbrella organization of 14 breeders groups all over the country, will present the National 7 Rooftop Derby on April 15, 16 and 17 at the Araneta Coliseum. "This is the first time ever that the NFGB will conduct a derby of this kind," says NFGB president Lawrence Ruiz. "Preliminaries are already held for the event." Cash prizes worth over P600,000 are offered. Details of the derby to be held are in the Rabbahood, Hang Derby and pair, invariably tough competition, said Valenzuela. As of yesterday, over 150 cocks from nine countries were registered for the upcoming tournament. The event is organized by Presidential Professor, Richard Gordon, Francisco and Philo., 20 Star Power Family of Brand Inc., Guard of Excellence International Specialists, Pinoy Rights, Dominic Belmonte and Bayo Lukoye. For other inquiries, contact 7233000.

Futsarama stars RP title bout

GARRISON Futsarama today features three times of Blackout as the defended his RP mini-flyweight crown against Carlo Barrion of Cebu. Barrion leads a muscle. The fight was held at the Bato Balaod of Barangay Bato in Sorsogon City. Barrion is a fighter who is known by the Filipino Boxing Federation (PBF). Barrion is also the current holder of the United States, Europe, Middle East, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and other parts of the world through "Bo" Master Diamond. Garrison Ultra-mania, supposedly Garrison, Tandem, PCSO contributions, is slated at 4 p.m. Tuesday on GMA 7. The bout will be promoted by Singapore Sole Power Plus. Action begins the third and final day of the tournament at the Youth Basketball Training Center. Youth Volleyball Challenge between PAF Team and Navy promotes the program at 2 p.m.

YOUNG CHAMP. Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners Association Inc. Youth and Sports Committee chair Danny L. Mendoza awards trophy to 12-year-old Kiko Fruzan Rivera, who has not older than in the Gen. Calderon of the district AQCHAI Junior Village Ball Tournament which a surrender par 71.

Unknown shocks Antonio; Torre wins

LITTLE-KNOWN Pedro Bagtas shocked Cosmetics Asia veterans in the first round of the Ninety Tumbler Clave Championship Mindanao leg yesterday at the Entertainment Area of SM City Davao in Davao City.

Bagtas's dispatch of the tournament top seed and overlord used the victories gained by the country's top-ten players Gil Eugene Torre and International Master Mark Paragua.

Torre topped Pedro Jeffrey while Paragua outplayed Claudio Magno Bolot to stun the day for the Peruvian.

The other big gun to exits a full point were Bk Hilfiman Cano and Hicks Bolotio, Rule Master Elmer Dy-Ballesteros, National Master Rolando Pilar, Alexander Lagman and IM Master Rubyn Tiklo.

The Asians needed Boris Scot Ingrodel Bonnevie, Rubyn Asuncion Bob Cubber, Dimalibot outplayed Rodrigo Carmen, Hicks defeated Marco Caparido Jr., Lagman trounced Rodney Caramat, and Tiklo edged Bernardo Catalano.

ANTONIO

The event, supported by Filoil Marketing CRS, president Hector Taguiam, offers P10,000 to the champion in the Open division.

Taguiam and PAC Commissioner Leon Hilario may make the ceremonial moves along with Images, Torre and runners.

In the deciding Mallow-Olympiad victories Lazenbal Cadiem beat Lovely Bagay to share the crown lead with Hilary Angeli Bonnevie.

Player-director Wilfredo Mateo said the tournament seedings are based on the level rating of the players. Matches start this, Good Shepherd Convent.

Beach football meets kick off April 23-24

THE BEACH Football Association of the Philippines' ventures tournament will kick off on April 23 to 24 at the waterfront of Subic Freeport.

More than 20 men's and women's teams will participate in "Weekend 2005" for schools based squads University of the Philippines, Ateneo La Salle and University of Sto. Tomas.

Other sports clubs including the UP Mountaineers, Boys, Manila Bikers and Legends have also signed up.

Action will then move to divisions when the Philippine Air Force defends its title in the all-male national Undefeated Championships on May 14 to 15.

Local and regionals teams from Manila, Iloilo and Boracay will be among the participants.

"We are celebrating the tenth year of beach football in the country since it was first introduced in Puerto Galera," said BFAP president Mike Affleck yesterday during the press conference at the Hard Rock Café in Glorietta. "Right now, it is also played in Davao, General Santos and Boracay."

Affleck noted that beach football is also getting popular in other Asian countries such as Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

"There are more serious players participating tattooed in the sport," added Philippine Football Federation secretary-general Atlanta Romualdez.

The event are supported by the SBMA, Hilo, by Bolong, Cardoza Restaurant, Gilt, official hotel Augusta, and cardio partners Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, PMPM, UNIST and Wave.

(continue 39, Page 6)

Legaspi, Castillo enter JVC Jrs Open q'finals

BIANCA Legaspi and Gaither Castillo romped away with easy victories over their respective rivals to leap into the quarterfinal round of the JVC Badminton Open Juniors Championships at SM North Edsa yesterday.

Legaspi, playing out of Ateneo-Jose Rodriguez Center, dropped only one point against Joyce Monique Li, 11-1, 11-0, to reach the quarterfinals in the 14-under division of this event.

Castillo, a Loyola Alumnus player, trounced Cristelle Ting, 11-5, 11-6, in a big follow up to his 11-5, 11-3 win over Kristhanne Theodore in the boys'-to-the quarterfinal Saturday.

The victory set up Castillo for a quarterfinal match with Gio-Angelo Cainda, who thwarted Sean Nolasco of Bulacan Badminton Club, 11-7, 11-6.

Rufino QC Councilor Jorge Bocalan, representing QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte, hit the first official serve to kick off the tournament.

JVC-PHILS.| JVC president and CEO Hideyuki Takai (center) hits the ceremonial serve with (from left) Quezon City Councilor Jorge Bocalan, Kuby Reyes, Miko Takano, Cynthia Carreon, Kazue Sakai and Bobby Dacosta.

Puerto Princesa riders pace Velo challenge

PUERTO Princesa City team out of the ranks established Anastasio Sotelo one in Quezon City yesterday, paving the season finale on the third day of the first Philippine Velo Challenge.

Three riders scored a gold medal each for Mayor Edward Hagedorn's team after Jerard Estoang, Virgilio Hernando and Jhon Bernard topped their respective fields in the women's competition at the Atherton 1,000-km. manned start in 2:17:50 while Hernando took the top spot in the km. of Elliot Mon with 2:44.06.

Mayor Mike Mesa, which leads the team standings after two days of the event underneath the Philippine Sunday hosted by Governor Commissioner Bert Lim, took two gold courtesy of Hernando Anne 23-24-100 in the Women's 1,000-meter event and Frederick Chan (2:40.901 in the Elimination 1,000-meter).

John Paul II has passionate love affair with Filipinos

From page A1

hope for his tireless preaching amid the world's constant persistence and neglect of the Church's message.

"I take with me a thousand images of the Philippines," the Pope said before he left Manila in 1995. Later, a papal aide told the media that the Pope had listed the visit recuperating: "It really did let him rest."

In his two visits, the Pope expressed the wish to return to the country, he replied: "Every year, every year."

The announcement was heartfelt and real. John Paul had obviously been moved by the sight of millions of Filipinos welcoming him and seeking his blessing as he passed through the country from Manila to Cebu, Davao, Bacolod, Iloilo and Baguio.

An estimated two million people welcomed him at the Mactan-Cebu airport in Cebu, expanding it into the crowding the crowd that greeted him on his homecoming to his native Krakow in Poland in 1979, a year after he was elected to the papacy.

Phenomenon of the world

But that record was broken some time in 1995 when four to five million people (seven million, according to a Japanese news agency) turned up for the closing Mass of the 10th World Youth Day.

Used to riding the "popemobile" to draw assemblies and blessing people along the way, John Paul was compelled to ride a helicopter to the Rizal Park because of the mass of humanity that had brought road traffic to a standstill.

"The Filipinos are the phenomenon of the world," he said.

Before officials were used "I personally have never seen a crowd this big in my life," said archbishop John Foley of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. "This is marvelous. This is a wonderful outpouring of faith, love, fervor, and the Pope is very pleased."

Bishops spokesperson Joaquin Bernas finds crowd that the Archbishop Jaime Sin was meant to ease security fears. "This is an instance of excess of success," he proudly said.

As in 1981, the Pope appeared and when he left the Philippines in 1995. Breaking away from his prepared departure speech, he said poignantly: "The Pope feels so well in the Philippines that he looks at another opportunity perhaps, to return. I don't know how."

He never got his wish. He wanted to come back in 2003 to attend the World Meeting of Families, but he was suffering from Parkinson's disease and complications arising from the bullet he took in the 1981 assassination attempt in Rome and could not make the trip.

Security concerns

Also by then, security concerns had become grave.

It was only after the Pope had left in 1995 that Manila authorities uncovered a conspiracy by extremists to kill him.

One of them, Ramzi Yousef, was later convicted for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. He got his bad links with the al-Qaeda, which was behind the 9/11 terror attacks that brought the twin twin towers down in 2001.

For Filipinos and other Catholics who view the Pope as a singular figure who has striven much to forge closer ties with Islam, Judaism and other religions, the religious inspired assassination plots against him were a cruel irony.

"We must remember that in the Jubilee Year in 2000, he offered an apology to the Jews and victims of religious persecution by Christians through the centuries," Gaston said. "He was a moral voice, the conscience of the world."

Moved by Filipino piety

Many do not know that John Paul's love affair with the Philippines started over before he was elected as the first non-Italian Pontiff in 400 years.

In February 1971, when he was still Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland, John Paul attended the International Eucharistic Congress in Melbourne, Australia. On the way there, he stopped in Manila and went celebrated Mass at the Redemptorist Church in Baclaran, the shrine of the Mother of Perpetual Help.

The cardinal was struck by the Filipinos' Marian devotion and intense spirituality. He later wrote in his diary that he was moved by the depth of Filipino piety, which he said reminded him of the Poles in Czestochowa, site of a famous Marian shrine.

When he returned to Manila in 1981, the Pope praised the Filipinos for holding on the faith of their forefathers and being a bastion fight of Christianity in Asia.

Always sensitive to the political situation, the Philippines drew being under Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship, the Pope spoke of human rights: "Any apparent conflict between the obligation of security and the citizens' basic rights must be resolved in favor of the fundamental principles upheld always by the Church—that social organizations exist only for the service of man and for the protection of his dignity and that these social organizations cannot claim to serve the common good when human rights are not safeguarded."

Pope supported Sin

John Paul's strong words counted all the pro-democracy movements that reached a coming point when Marcos decided was assassinated in 1983, and an explosive climax in the People Power revolution of 1986 that toppled Marcos.

In both instances, the Philippine Church led the masses in opposing for an end to the dirty rooftop, as typified by the bishops' extraordinary pastoral letters after the 1986 election that said Marcos had no moral right to rule by cheating at the polls, and the call of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin for Filipinos to protect the military rebels in Camp Crame and Aguinaldo.

The activist side of the Philippine Church caused tensions in the Roman Curia, but in the end, the Pope supported Sin and the bishops.

"He understood," the cardinal later told George Weigel, the Pope's biographer. "He always encouraged me to carry on."

Pastoral mission

A year later, when the Pope visited Chile under the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, he was asked by the media whether the Church in Chile should play the same role as it did in the Philippines.

There was no hesitation in his reply: "I think it is not only possible, but necessary because this is part of the pastoral mission of the Church."

In two years, Pinochet was forced to step down. It was 1989's also in Poland forced a resignation with the communist bosses and, later, an election that put the strongly Catholic union in power.

It was the beginning of the end for communism in Eastern Europe.

Pro-democracy revolts

It seems clear everywhere the Pope went, there would arise a pro-democracy revolution.

And the revolution started in 1986, with the Philippines' own unique revolution. Confirmation of the Left and Right combined to establish once it sought free from the passionate love affair between the Pope and the beloved Filipinos.

Bishops in military's . . .

From page A6

the provinces apparently as part of an "information campaign," according to the military group Pamalakaya.

Members of Pamalakaya got hold of a CD copy of the document yesterday from writer-reporter in Samar, said Fernando Hicap, the group's national chair.

Hicap said the CBCP and the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP), composed of nuns, priests and Church people, as well as the media groups National Union of Journalists of the Philippines and Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, were included in the military list of organizations suspected of dealing with or acting as fronts for communist rebels.

"It looks like a hit list that places groups critical of the government in the labeled 'most wanted' order of battle," Bishop said in a statement.

The AFP public information office could not be reached for comment.

Cause for alarm

The others listed as suspected communist fronts are the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno, human rights advocacy group Karapatan, peasant women group Amihan and youth group Kabataan.

Also listed are the youth group Anakbayan, government workers group Courage, urban poor group Kadamay, indigenous people's group Bayan, Alliance of Concerned Teachers, cultural group Kaisahan, Promotion of Church People's Response, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, Student Christian Movement of the Philippines, and Congress of Filipino Students.

Listed as well are the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela Women's Party, Anak ng Bayan and Buhay Hayaan Mong Mabuhay.

"This is cause for major alarm," Hicap said.

"Banning Your Enemy" is guaranteed black propaganda that seeks public approval of social-democrat and reformist allies of leftist activists and other parties critical of Malacañang, the AFP, and the national security position of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration," he said.

'CPP's legal machinery'

According to Pamalakaya's information officer Gerry Gorpez, the document described these organizations as the "legal machinery of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) and [working] on different sectors."

Pamalakaya is the only group described as an "underground organization" after the Left split at Democratic Front (NDF), he said, quoting the document as saying that its members have "transport from [the] CPP and [are] tasting their fences."

"Apparently they got the idea that we're un-bound because we aired such information," Gorpez said. Information [is] the key to success. We are for free underground," Gorpez said of the key to success.

The AMRSP was described as "a member of the Christians for National Liberation," an underground group belonging to the NDF, Gorpez said.

He said the CBCP-NSCP and NCCI were included in the matrix of groups suspected of dealings with communist rebels.

Red scare tactics

Gorpez said the military was apparently resorting the Red scare tactics against militant groups.

"This is really sloppy military intelligence work coupled with a malicious intent to vilify our groups," he said. "Pinagtatalo-talo na [They've lumped all these groups together]. And they've to hatched old accusations."

In his statement, Bishop said the document had bolstered Pamalakaya's claim that the military was behind the killing and harassment of leftist activists.

Since January, 32 activists have been killed and five have been ormanized missing, according to Pamalakaya.

In a packed press and a statement issued last week, the CBCP used strong terms in urging the government to resolve the killings of church-person supporters of the striking workers of Hacienda Leonia in Tarlac.

Tarlac City Councilor Adelaida Ladera, 56, William Tadena of the Philippine Independent Church and Anakpawis coordinator Victor Concepcion were all shot dead in separate incidents last month.

Militant groups have blamed their deaths on the military and paramilitary groups, the 11. Tim. Bulatao Dominguez, chief of the Northern Luzon Command, claimed that the NPA are behind the killings.

'Endorsed slaughter'

"While the military denies involvement in the killing of political activists, its Power Point presentation openly endorses the slaughter . . . of personalities and ordinary men members of left-leaning organizations," Hicap said.

He said the government and the military should stop resorting to political killings and character assassinations and immediately pull out "Knowing Your Enemy" from circulation.

"External and other appropriate charges should be filed against responsible military officials behind 'Knowing Your Enemy.' This flowchart presents state-sanctioned terrorism, murder-by-vilification," Bishop said.

"External and other appropriate charges should be filed against responsible military officials behind 'Knowing Your Enemy.' This flowchart presents state-sanctioned terrorism, murder-by-vilification, series to allow [illegible] and other [illegible] and legal series to draw out [illegible] questions.

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Pinay lawyer to defend Nora in US drug charges

From page A1

Lawyer Claire Espina, based in Los Angeles since 2002, told the Inquirer yesterday in a phone interview that Aunor had retained "Incanto" and "positive" about her predicament following her arrest on Wednesday to that city's International airport.

Police allegedly found eight grams of shabu and a glass pipe wrapped in a T-shirt in the 51-year-old Aunor's carry-on bag for a flight bound for Oakland.

Reports said the posted $20,000 bail early Thursday and was freed after about 18 hours of detention at the San Diego jail in San Fernando Valley.

"She was clear on and will be concerned who has undergone such as ordeal. She remains alert, strong, and focused," Espina said of her client.

Composed

Aunor has since been staying with members of her family in Southern California, the lawyer said.

During questioning by police, Aunor "remained in a very dignified and rational manner, which struck me," Espina said, adding:

"I don't remember seeing her crying. She might have been asked but she was composed. And I admire her for that, because I've seen bigger men rob before collected by the same gadget."

Espina declined to discuss Aunor's defense, saying she had yet to receive the formal evidence against her client, whose first hearing is set on April 21 at the Airport Courthouse.

But the lawyer, who's now on her 10th year of law practice in California, raised some legal points in the interview. She stressed, for example, that "nobody can conclude that [after was found in one's possession] was really drugs and [it] how can be."

Espina, 43, is a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines. She acquired her law degree at the University of La Verne in California.

She has kept her Filipino citizenship and is mother to four daughters.

A brother of hers, Al Navarro, works at the Villavicio & Angkingco law office, or what is known here as "The Firm" for its powerful ties to President Macapagal's family.

'Our biggest star'

Told of how Aunor's arrest was reported in Manila, Espina did not dispute the news account except with regard to the reporter's length of detention. She said it was much shorter than reported.

Espina also said she would be handling Aunor's case together with her law partner, Gerardo Edelberg.

"I grew up in our country knowing Nora as our biggest star," she said. "So this is more than just business for me. I feel that it's my obligation as a Filipino and as a woman to convince that she gets fair treatment and a rigorous defense."

The way Espina sees it, Aunor is "the face of the Filipina [with] the world."

She said her circle of Filipino friends in LA were saddened by the incident because, she pointed out, the charges involved "crystal" "ice" was "clearly tied to our history and culture."

Underdog

Espina said that because of her long stay abroad, she was not that familiar with Aunor's movies. She was surprised when told that Aunor had been seriously considered to be proclaimed National Artist.

"She's always been an underdog, but she's always survived all the trials of her personal and professional life. She needs our prayers and the media's support but people are rooting for what's best for her," Espina said, adding:

"These are difficult times for her, to be the focus of a US criminal inquiry. Whether or not [the charge of possession of a controlled substance is] true is already immaterial."

Asked if she would let the court know of Aunor's distress in the Philippines in the course of the hearing, Espina said she would see how it would go. "Ethically it's not, if it's bring a celebrity can work in her favor, we will use it. If it will in her harm, we will not."

But then, she pointed out, Los Angeles Judges and prosecutors were somewhat "jaded" already when handling cases involving celebrities.

Coverage

Aunor's arrest was reported last by the Daily Breeze, a newspaper published in Los South Bay area that includes the cities of Torrance and Hawthorne, both heavily populated by Filipino-Americans.

According to the Breeze, unnamed sources said Aunor had arrived from Oakland before 8 p.m. and, on a valid turnaround, was scheduled to fly back to the San Area an hour or two later.

She was reported to be performing in a series of shows in California before returning to Manila.

In a follow-up story on Saturday, the Associated Press said the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles was unaware of Aunor's arrest and was not contacted by her.

In news at the AP dispatch caused the wire, ABC TV news affiliate Channel 7 said Jon Stier, Aunor's FBI Channel 11 in LA featured Aunor's arrest. *With a report from Percy E. Della in California*

NORA AUNOR: Face of the Filipina [illegible] the world

E-mail: sz_bizmail@inquirer.com.ph

Business/Features Editor: Margie Quiroga-Espino

Sunday BIZ

MIRA and Leandro Sisco, with sons Victor Nicanor and Luis Leandro

DR. MIRA Dragon-Cisco today

Woman ahead of her time

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DUMAGUETE, Oriental Negros—Mira Dragon-Sisco was in second grade in Cavite when she was asked by her teacher to sit at the back of the classroom and help some classmates in their English lessons.

The next day, she 6-year-old student in the seventies.

Her mom stressed to her decision, as children are wont to do, and took up English and Education studies at the University of the Philippines, where she graduated with honors in 1956.

That degree put her firmly on a teaching career path—but her true love, where she earned her teaching license Foundation University, one of the province's four major institutions of learning, of which she will eventually become president.

For the proud Cebuano who never let pass to the Philippines to who fought side by side with nationalist hero Andres Bonifacio, going to Dumaguete was hard-hard to say.

It was then of the College of Education who pushed her to it.

He set up the appointment for the 23-year-old, and convinced her to dress up with the dean at that time of the BU College of Law, who was urgently looking for an English teacher for the school that he founded.

"I did not even know where Dumaguete was. The farthest I have been to was Iloilo. My appointment was supposed to be at 10 a.m., but I arrived at 11 a.m. I said I was just delayed. But the truth was, I really did not want to go," Sisco tells fourteen.

But the did anyway, and was somehow convinced to seriously think over the offer.

Little did she know that she just found her dream teacher-to-be, who asked her to go over the details with his son, who would eventually become her husband, best friend, partner and pillar of support.

It was not love at first sight, however, for Mira and Leandro Sisco, for hours.

Thus, it was not because of him that she relented finally took the offer and rode the boat to Dumaguete.

"It was my mother who said that it was a good idea to earn some experience before I pursue the scholarship for a post-graduate degree that I wanted. So I went, and I stuck all the way," Sisco reveals.

There were no more rows, however, when she settled into her job as an English teacher in June 1956, earning about P1.00 a month.

FIRST JOB

She was a popular teacher—strict but approachable—and became quite the celebrity on campus that her deep 'ers usually encamped to groups of men serenading her.

She, however, said that she never even peeked out the windows to see who they were.

Perhaps it was because Leandro got wind of the threatening competition that he eventually made his intentions known to Mira.

By September, he asked her to marry him.

"Of course I said no. My grandmother who raised me said that she would come back if not the dead and pull us by leg if I got married so quickly," Mira says.

Leandro, however, would not be so easily rebuffed. The two eventually got married and Mira got exactly what she took on a wife, and three mothers in two sons, Victor Clement and Luis Leandro.

Her dream of earning a post-graduate degree, however, was always at the back of her mind.

After three years of marriage, she got her chance. She packed up her two young children and brought them with her to Manila where she took up a Master's degree in counseling and guidance from UP.

Her husband was left behind to

TO PAGE B2

LEANDRO and Mira Sisco on their wedding day

THE SISCOS with four of their grandchildren

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Woman ahead of her time

MIRA with President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002 when she was named outstanding envirosocial graduate of Cattle National High School.

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Running

JOSE Maria G. Marco, US-based teleservices provider Epixtar's first Filipino call center manager, knows outbound call center outsourcing quite well.

When he started out in the industry in early 2000 as an agent with a local call center implementing outbound operations, Marco exceeded quotas two-fold within his first three weeks of manning the phones.

He moved up to team leader in just another two weeks, and became program manager and then shift supervisor in less than a year.

By his third year, he was already the call center manager for the startup teleservices firm.

Prior to joining Epixtar in September 2003, Marco also did some consultancy work for another outbound call center, which had just initiated its outbound operations and required his experience to roll out its services.

Passion

While many in the industry prefer to work on inbound programs, Marco's passion for great challenges and excitement kept him focused on an outbound outsourcing career.

"Inbound is more predictable because once you've got everything settled and if you've established the processes and procedures in terms of operations, it basically runs itself. Whereas in outbound, you can't make an accurate forecast on what your call volumes will be in any particular day. It's like living on the edge," Marco says.

It was also this thirst for new challenges that spurred Marco to join Epixtar when it was starting operations in Manila. Epixtar acquired iCall, a local call center operator, housed in Insular Life Tower, Filinvest, Alabang and designated Marco operations manager to build up the company's first Philippine facility and handle day-to-day operations.

Challenges

Epixtar promoted Marco to call center manager early this year, in charge of overseeing all departments in Alabang.

Marco supervised operations of the 246-seat facility, which focused on Epixtar's telecommunications programs for several major carriers in the US, including AT&T and MCI as well as other outbound programs targeted for the UK.

Last month, Marco moved to Epixtar House, the company's flagship center in Eastwood, as one of two call center managers running a production floor.

The flagship center now operates close to 400 seats, which makes Marco's job even more challenging.

"The industry is in an upswing and the best thing about that is it benefits our economy, generates employment, and provides better career opportunities," he says.

Sunday BIZ

Farming rediscovered

By Emmanuel Cotoner
Contributor

FIFTY-YEAR-OLD Rodrigo Marollano is one of many farmers who were forced out of their land in Canlubang, Alibay, because they could no longer earn enough from their farms.

Marollano earned just about P1,200-P1,400 from his forfeited plot of tilling a three-hectare property. Thus, he left Alibay and moved to Lagunian's Meridit, seek greener pastures.

What greeted Marollano upon arriving first in Laguna was a different landscape.

Rapid industrialization had claimed most of the open lands in the area. Big corporations in land development had purchased hectares of land, which were transformed into economic or residential zones.

Farm lands were sold and swapped as by various developers in the area.

The farmers, tempted by instant wealth, gave in to the offers to sell their land. Many ended up one-day millionaires.

There were other farmers, however, who decided to stick to farming. The Philippine Business for Social Progress is helping these farmers increase their income by introducing new technologies developed at the Center for Rural Technology Development (CRTD) in Calauan, Laguna.

The CRTD serves as a laboratory for testing, validating and disseminating technologies appropriate for lowland farming.

CRTD has been developing farming systems designed to optimize the use of land and bring up the yield so that the farmers can earn more.

CRTD, for instance, developed the Bukbok ("Shaked up Palay" or Farm of Life) farming system involving farm

(CONTINUED ON B5)

RODRIGO Marollano is no longer just a simple farmer having learned new skills at the Center for Rural Technology Development.

BECAUSE YOU ARE MEANT TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE WHO MATTER MOST, THERE'S SONERA

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUMMER BEAUTY CHECKLIST

SCENTS with personality C2

RESTORATIVE sun protection C2

BEST-KEPT secret of the high-profile C4

NONFATTENING, body-buffing choc C4

BEAUTY oasis in a mall C8

Rio Carnival in a bottle

Escada releases a summer fragrance inspired by Brazil's annual extravaganza

By Rowena C. Burgos

THE SUN IS out, the weather's hot and, without a doubt, you want to smell sweet despite the heat. So spritz on Escada's Rockin' Rio and feel the soft warmth of the sun on your skin.

Every year, Escada launches a summer fragrance "that has something to do with where," says Mario Capecchi, brand manager, Rockin's cosmetics and toiletries.

This year's new scent, Rockin' Rio, Capecchi says, has been inspired by romantic subsets, wild beach parties and the Carnival in Rio. "Think of sun-kissed Brazilian girls in the sexiest and most colorful costumes—smiling, laughing, dancing to the music."

Rio de Janeiro's main event happens at the peak of summer. There festivities attract thousands of people from all corners of the world.

"Island resorts in different parts of the globe have been the theme of Escada's summer scents. I just don't know when they'd create one set that Asian setting," Capecchi says.

Rockin' Rio's fruity floral, citrus infusion blends tropical flowers and juicy fruits—a truly spirited scent. Notes include tangerine, pineapple, papaya, pitia colada, sugar cane, fresh peach, dama de noite, sea breeze, coco juice, driftwood, sandalwood, powder of musk.

The "neon energy" of this is captured on the perfume's various design. One side displays flowers in bright yellow and pink while the other shows a woman in fashion. At image in hot pink, her name is adorned with flowers.

On April 14, Rockin' Rio will be launched in shopping malls. The perfume's target: modern young women aged 18-30.

A refreshing spray on this hot day, the limited edition of Rockin' Rio is available until July at Rustan's Fragrance. Catch this fruity floral fragrance while you can.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

DAISY Marc Jacobs

LES Sens of Nature

ANNICK Goutal

FERAUD

Scents of self-affirmation

PRES de la Provence

ANANAS Fizz

Text by Bonnie C. Burgos
Photos by Jonyh Aguasli

Lizard, salt and swimsuit season make good summer picks, but the only true rule for choosing a scent is that it smells good on you and to you.

"Your perfume should reflect your personality, your attitude, your mood, which means you want may switch from day to day or from dance to dark," says Tanya Sison, Artistic brand manager of Prestige Fragrances such as Annick Goutal, Acqua di Parma's Blu Mediterraneo, Pres de la Provence, Feraud and Jacomo Elixir.

Annick Goutal is the creation of many of the world's most acclaimed fragrances. The French perfumer has translated her memories, passions, and most deeply felt emotions into evocative fragrances.

Some of Annick Goutal's scents include Les Bain d'Hadrien, a warm and seductive fragrance which has icy Sicilian lemons infused with rich vanilla, amber and musk. Its other notes are bergamot, green mandarin, tangerine, sandalwood and bittersweet patchouli.

A truly sparkling, zesty combination of lemon, grapefruit and cypress that evokes the heat of the Mediterranean sun and the cool ease of the shade of a lemon tree, Eau d'Hadrien is a fresh scent that's suitable for both seasons and men of every age.

Eau de Bonpoint bears the name of the prestigious children's clothing brand designed by the creator's sister. A fresh and subtle dew, both discreet and refined, in which white lily, jasmine, tuberose, lemon leaf and mandarin orange lend "celebrate the love between all children and their mothers. This is for all those who love a scent as gentle as a caress," Adriana says.

A perfume should reflect one's personality, attitude and mood

These fragrances by Annick Goutal, Adriana adds, are created without regard for the latest trends or fashions. "They evoke nature and the emotions of passing time."

Eaux de la Provence is a fresh blend of white roses and jasmine. Child makes reference to relaxing storms, deep and mysterious isle, sexy seas. Eau de sud blackberry bushed with rich, lingering notes of musk and just the rush.

BLU Mediterraneo

Perfumed by Louis Feraud is classified as a refreshing fragrance. The feminine scent possesses a combination of citrus and green, with flowers, pepper, woods and vanilla.

Antonio Fizz ("pineapple fizz") is the scent of the tropical paradise in your hot summer dreams. Its notes include pineapple, citrus essences (lemon zest), lotus syringa, bergamot and pink grapefruit, pure rose, cedar, precious woods, cocoa milk, lotus tea and vanilla.

For Adriana, perfume is certainly about luxury, but it's also about self-affirmation and desire. So whatever you choose to dab on your pulse points, treat it for yourself and no one else.

E-mail the author at thego@inquirer.com.ph

BELL de Bonpoint

SISLEY Eight-treating products: Phyto-Blanc Refl and Wash Facial Gel, Lightening Toning Lotion, White Source and Clearing Essence with Vitamin C

Sisley offers products for your face and body which can help you maintain healthy skin and slow the visible signs of aging

Sun-shielding wonders

By Bonnie C. Burgos

Summer has arrived! And that means we need to take special care to protect our hair, and most exposed, organ from the damaging effects of sun, sand, dry air, excessive swims, harsh soaps and other chemicals.

If you don't have the time or resources to access the right skin-care professionals, Sisley offers products for your face and body which can help you maintain healthy skin and slow the visible signs of aging.

Start your morning routine with Sisley's Phyto-Blanc Refl and Wash Facial Gel, which prepares the skin before the application of other products on the range.

Next, apply the Phyto-Blanc Lightening Toning Lotion, which should also be used every night after cleansing the skin. This will tone and refine the pores.

Use Phyto-Blanc White Source after the cleansing toning lotion and day cream. A fluid and non-greasy emulsion gel, it neutralizes your skin and makes it appear "plumped up." The product is also ideal in achieving successful makeup results...as it leaves an invisible elastic film on the skin, ensuring impeccable makeup for hours.

A lightening serum, Phyto-Blanc Clearing Essence with Vitamin C acts on the synthesis of melanin, slowing down its production.

To enable women to fully enjoy the sun, Sisley proffers the Photo-Sun Care line, which consists of the Facial Sun Cream (SPF 6 and SPF 15), Broad Spectrum Sunscreen (SPF 20, 25 and 40), Fluid Body Sun Cream (SPF 25), Body Sun Cream (SPF 15), Sun Oil (SPF 5), Day Cream with sun protection factor (six), Self-Tanning Gel 1 and 2, and Restorative Facial Cream and Body Cream with Tanning Effect.

Sisleya Elixir, on the other hand, is an "intensive repair program" to help restore the skin's primary functions and capacity to recover its own defenses.

Two hundred and twenty women participated in tests conducted under clinical supervision by a Clinical Expertise Institute approved by the French Ministry of Health. Using Sisleya Elixir's one-month treatment program, the following short-term results were observed: overall improvement of a "yellow-up" effect; the skin's surface appeared redesigned and plumped up; eyes became more revitalized, with a reduction in the appearance of wrinkles; skin looked toned and "stress-free"; skin appears firmer, better-toned and more luminous.

With the skin often taking a beating in summer, Sisley has launched Sisleya Global Anti-Age to quench thirsty skin all day long. It contains sunflower oil rich in oleic acid which nourishes and revitalizes skin; phytoguaiene which has emollient and moisturizing qualities; and phytosqualane which bolsters the upper layers of the skin.

For the chapped or cracked lips, try Sisley's Intensive Lip Balm. With its cocktail of natural plant extracts, this beauty treatment improves the lips' resistance to climatic factors. Its plant-based vegan oil

INTENSIVE Lip Balm

Happy sniffing

By Vergie Bags-Reyes

HAPPINESS" comes in shares...

Yes, Clinique unveils its third and latest fragrance for women aptly billed Happy To Be, which captures the essence of happiness on women who exude confidence and contentment.

"Happy To Be is part of Clinique's Happy trio series," says Nadya Olive, Clinique associate brand manager.

"As it has done with the first two Happy perfumes, Clinique provides its customers with a brand new expression of fragrance and a unique experience when smelling a new scent. Happy To Be is an exuberant fragrance that is a reflection of who you are and your strong sense of self."

Happy, the first fragrance of the trio launched a few years ago, offers a citrusy scent which reminds us of Issey Lauder's Pleasures, Calvin Klein's CK and Gucci's Envy.

Happy Heart, the second perfume released in 2000, has a sharp blend of gentle, floral aromas. Now, Happy To Be is a modern sparkling floral with soft creamy whiff.

"All together, the Happy trio provides three different and distinct scents that appeal to a wide variety of tastes. It appeals to any woman who desires a fragrance with energy, modernity and a new sensuality," says Olive.

Happy To Be (P1,500, 50 ml; P1,400, 100 ml) combines the delicate floral aroma of Hibiscus, Bulgarian Rose and Syringa for a sparkling effect. This blend gives way to a surprising softness of cocoa butter mixed with sandalwood and vanilla for an added degree of refinement. The luscious and dewy Pear Nectarprint provides a ripe nuance.

Clinique's Happy To Be targets women who are fun and spontaneous, aged 35-45 years old. It can be worn all throughout summer and still be appropriate for the rainy season.

The fragrance is poured into a simple glass spray bottle, which is sensuously decorated with a free-style handwritten "Happy To Be" signature in rainbow of bright orange tones, which signify the individuality and personal aspect of the scent. A burnt orange cap tops off the flacon.

Clinique Happy To Be is available exclusively at Rustan's Cosmetics Makati.

Clinique's new fragrance combines the delicate floral aroma of Hibiscus, Bulgarian Rose and Syringa for a sparkling effect.

HAPPY To Be is for women who are fun and spontaneous.

Sun-shielding wonders

From page C2

...soothes the lips; luscious oil and sunflower oil rehydrate and plump them up; hibiscus butter and shea butter for repair; and natural wax and natural exceptionals for protection.

For women who are willing to do anything to get rid of cellulite, Sisley provides Phyto-Sculpt Global Anti-Cellulite. This product contains soy membrane extracts which increase the production of collagen and elastin fibers, working to reinforce skin firmness and elasticity. Ivy green tea and red vine extracts also help tone and firm skin.

A family-owned business, Sisley is owned and managed by Count Hubert d'Ornano. His wife, Isabelle, is vice chairman of the board. Their son, Philippe, is executive vice president.

Countess Isabelle d'Ornano shares the concern of many women with her focus on products that help improve the skin's health, glowing luminosity and keep it looking young and vibrant.

Sisley's beauty products are available at Rustan's branches.

E-mail the author at rbagsreyes@inquirer.com.ph

SISLEYA Global Anti-Age cream

PHYTO-SCULPT Global Anti-Cellulite

New York's best-kept secret

Mario Badescu products are patronized by such A-listers as Sarah Jessica Parker, Liv Tyler, Ashley Judd, Charlize Theron, Queer Eye's Carson Kressley, and Cher

SEAWEED Night Cream

BLUEBERRY Lotion CELLULITE Drops ENZYME Cleansing Gel

By Kinny Salas

ANYONE who has read a beauty or fashion magazine would have come across a funny plastic bottle with pink and clear-colored fluid inside. That is Mario Badescu's trademark product, the Drying Lotion.

What most people don't know is that this particular brand has a whole range of skincare for every skin type imaginable.

Aromatherapist Badescu founded the Mario Badescu Salon in 1967, bringing his vast knowledge of old-world skin care techniques to a whole new audience. His sophisticated approach to skin care quickly gained him a loyal following.

Responsible for his products for use at home led to the development of the Mario Badescu line of premium products that combine natural ingredients and advanced technology. The product line works together to cleanse gently and rejuvenate the skin while preventing damage from pollution, aging and harsh climate conditions.

Today, the products are considered among New York City's best-kept secrets, which may help explain why celebs like Cher, Liv Tyler, Ashley Judd, Charlize Theron, Queer Eye's Carson Kressley and Sarah Jessica Parker.

Though now owned by a different company, Mario Badescu's people remain guided by the founder's dedication to provide effective and gentle skin care based on a foundation of fresh fruits, botanicals and other natural ingredients.

RWT Face Scrub

MARIO Badescu cleansers, toners, moisturizers, exfoliants and facial masks

The salon makes more than 250 (yes, you read right) products for all skin types including cleansers, toners, moisturizers, exfoliants and treatments.

I recently met one of their top skin specialist, Lorna del Rosario, who flew in from New York and gave me an extensive questionnaire to fill out. After assessing my skin's oily and acne prone, she gave me a tried-and-tested products suited for me. With her every hearty and bubbly manner, I didn't mind a chance I was put in silly clothing.

My list of Lorna recommended products for my skin type: Enzyme Cleansing gel (P346), a non-foaming cleanser eating visible keyboard and (AHA) to remove dirt, make up and pore clogging debris that causes breakouts; Cucumber Cleansing lotion (P368) as astringent; oil-free moisturizer SPF 17 (P1,245) for day; Cucumber eye gel (P1,148), which she suggested I keep in the fridge and apply every morning; contains AHA to eliminate fine lines and wrinkles; Glycolic eye cream (P1,148) every morning; Cellulerex Drops (P1,048) for my cleavage, which contains collagen rich in Vitamin C for connective cellulite to; Seaweed Hydrating cream (P1,248) to be applied on top of my moisturizer for that extra boost.

Occasional treatments include Flower and Yeast mask (P1,248) to refine skin, tightens pores and absorb oil; Kiwi bare mask (P948), as a weekly exfoliant; Apricot body lotion (P999), which I recommend for body massages, and the Bullfrog Cream (P1,048) to dry and heal large cystic acne, which the Facial Drying Lotion (P1,048) can't handle as quickly.

If you want to find out the particular combination for your skin, drop by Dermers at Ramon's, exclusive dealer of Mario Badescu products.

CERAMIDE Eye Gel

Chocolate indulgence minus the guilt

By Pan Pasco

HEADS up, chocoholics. Here's something for you.

Designers giving people the chance to enjoy chocolate minus the guilt with its Cocoa Therapy Collection, which uses the therapeutic Theobroma Cacao.

For over 2,000 years, civilizations all over the world have relied on the cocoa plant for many things. At one point during the Aztec ages, cocoa beans were so valuable they were used as currency.

Since then, chocolate has long been viewed as a source of strength, stamina, energy, power, passion, health, happiness, wealth and salvation.

Check the myths

Studies on chocolate have proven its goodness. In fact, its flavonoid content has yet to be matched by any other food. Flavonoids, which are found in plant-based foods, have antioxidant capabilities to fight against cell-damaging free radicals.

Eating chocolate can make you feel good by increasing your brain's phenylethylamine levels, producing a mild, confidence-instilling buzz. Chocolate also contains tryptophan and theobromine, which can lift your mood, increase euphoria and perk you up.

If you still think chocolate is sinful, read this: a study by Mary B. Engler, PhD, at the University of California in San Francisco which appeared in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition, says that, "the health benefits of cocoa may far outweigh the negative concerns often given to [the chocolate]."

With its Cocoa Therapy Collection, Origins aims to let you enjoy the benefits of cocoa in different ways. Using every part of the cocoa plant—oil, pod and seed included—Origins succeeded in creating holistic serum to stimulate one's senses.

Key treats

The collection's key ingredients are theobromine cacao, vanilla, lemon, orange and ginger. It also contains added benefits of Vitamins A, B, C, E, and minerals like Potassium, Magnesium, Iron, Calcium and Copper.

Take your pick from these treats:

Cocoa Therapy Deeply Nourishing Body Butter (P1,950). Fight your battle against daily dryness with this rich cream. Enhanced with cocoa butter and nourishing theobroma grandiflorum, this body butter provides moisture and helps maintain the skin's youthful appearance.

Cocoa Therapy Total Body Tonic (P1,750). Like magic, this smoothing serum becomes chocolate silk with a sweep of your fingers. Ease your tense muscles and feel relief from stiffness and aches with this blend of cocoa butter, theobroma grandiflorum, arabica coffee and caffeine oils.

Cocoa Therapy Energy-Boosting Body Bar (P600). Enjoy softness in the shower with this cocoa butter-enriched cleanser. Plant-derived cleansers will leave your skin feeling fresh and spotless.

Cocoa Therapy Body Buffing Scrub (P1,300). Exfoliate your skin and restore impurities with a delicious mix of cocoa butter, pure cocoa, walnut shells and apricot seeds.

Cocoa Therapy Instant Chocolate Fix (P800). Zap that chocolate craving with this elixir. Carry this chocolate scrumptious around in your bag for a quick fix whenever and wherever you need it. Roll it on your energy points and give yourself an instant boost.

Origins Cocoa Therapy Collection is available at Origins Store at Rustan's Makati.

Let your body experience chocolate—without packing in the pounds

Safe whitening in three easy steps

CLARINS' essential whitening products: Detoxifying Pore Soap, Renewing Smooth Exfoliator and Intensive Whitening Mask

Clarins treatments help improve one's skin texture and even out skin tone while removing impurities

By Virgie Ilago-Reyes

CLARINS has long been one of the leading brands in the whitening skin care line.

Last year, Clarins introduced White Plus, a range of eight whitening skin care products that contain a specially formulated complex called Lotis Amand Tyrosin, which combines Vitamin C derivative and a powerful Raspberry Extract to help give the skin a youthful glow.

These White Plus treatments take into account all factors leading to hyperpigmentation, both those linked to UV rays and those linked to changes in the dermis due to age.

The whitening products include Total Whitening Essence, All Spot Whitening Corrector, Tightening Whitening Lotion, Hydrating Whitening Lotion SPF 20 PA, Repairing Whitening Night Cream, Smoothing Cleansing Mousse, Purifying Whitening Scrub Mist and Purifying Whitening Body Mist.

But Clarins has gone even further by producing a seven-thorough-beauty ritual that renews the skin, using water to give three simple steps: cleansing with Detoxifying Pore Soap, restoring with Renewing Smooth Exfoliator and resurfacing with Intensive Whitening Mask.

"These simple steps answer the demand of clients who want to improve their skin texture and at the same time even out skin tone while removing impurities," says Pinay Medical, Clarins brand manager.

The combination of these three treatments is said to give better results than any single stand-alone product.

Step 1: Cleansing

For this essential beauty step, Clarins has the perfect product: a round, exfoliating soap which is odorless and fragrance-free.

The Detoxifying Pore Soap offers a rich, pure broth that has a plant-based origin: coconut oil, palm oil and linseed oil. It also has effective whitening active ingredients: chamomile, raspberry and Japanese mint extract.

Simply dip the soap in water and work up a lather in your hands. Apply the lather over the face and massage lightly from chin to forehead, from nose to ears and from the middle to the forehead, to the temples. Rinse with cool water. Use the soap every morning and/or evening.

Step 2: Repairing

The Renewing Smooth Exfoliator has a unique white paste containing exfoliating microbeads which drop-dissolve, renew and whitens the skin. It has a controlled "reactive" effect that gently lifts off impurities and deep cleanses pores without foaming or pulling tissues. On top of this deep-cleansing action is the anti-ageing action of Clarins' whitening plant complex.

Simply apply a fine, even layer of the exfoliator in circular movements in the direction of the lymphatic circulation, as with the Detoxifying Soap. Rinse well with water and pat dry with a facial tissue.

Step 3: Lightening

The final step of the beauty routine in the application of the Intensive Whitening Mask, which is a cream mask presented in single doses.

Ingredients include plant extracts and micronized White Clay. In the same way, the Clarins Lotis Amand Tyrosin slows down the production of excess melanin and prevents the formation of new dark spots.

To use, apply the contents of one single dose to a thoroughly cleansed and dry face and neck. Leave for 5-15 minutes. Rinse well with cool water. Use once or twice a week.

Clarins White Plus products are available at Rustan's Emerson Makati.

The Big Apple in a bottle

DKNY invites you to Be Delicious

By Pam Pastor

We've seen countless tributes to New York—both pre- and post-9/11. We've watched Sarah Jessica Parker and her love affair with the big bustling city in "Sex and the City." We witnessed the rise of "Friends" grow up with it in the Big Apple as well.

Movies, television shows, books, songs...we've seen and heard them all.

But DKNY's new scent may just be the most delicious tribute of all.

DKNY is creating our notch two new scents from the big Apple, the Delicious apple-inspired perfume and the Delicious Mess.

Inspired by urban life and created by modern day admen and Eves, DKNY Be Delicious was created by a world where everything is synonymous and where anything can happen. The scents inspire people to "Be, inside and out."

Just taking a unique description apple note that has never been used by any other brand, DKNY Be Delicious' top note is an energetic blend of dewy green cucumber and sparkling grapefruit. Magnolia gives it an airy heart while its fresh floral feel comes from an exotic blue or iphoreae and white mugwort, rose and violet. Touches of sandalwood, blonde woods and white amber give the scent ownership.

DKNY Be Delicious Mess is a sensual, vibrant fragrance that brings together luscious apples and aromatic coffees, swirling in juicy freshness and rich, mouthful notes. Crisp tart green apples and spark kling toffee swirls blend for the energetic top note. The soothing mid note is the marriage of warm, possessive apple and African coffee. Amber's applewood and dark-roasted coffee round complete the scent's irresistible seduction, exciting energy and strength.

The scents will be wrapped in apple motifs printed in fresh modern colors.

The DKNY Be Delicious Collection for women includes Eau de Parfum (P2,890 for 30 ml, P2,750 for 50ml and P3,800 for 100 ml), Eau de Toilette Rollerball (P1,950), Body Lotion (P2,200), Lip Gloss (P700), Body Scrub (P1,750) and Deodorant Stick (150gm) (P1,600).

The DKNY Be Delicious Collection for men includes Eau de Toilette (P2,500 for 50ml, P3,300 for 100ml), After Shave (P2,400), Deodorant Natural Spray (P1,800) and Anti-Perspirant Deodorant Stick (P1,800).

Spritz on the Delicious, be taken or free and take a juicy bite out of life.

DKNY Be Delicious will be available in Rustan's in May.

DKNY comes out with new fragrances Be Delicious and Be Delicious Mess.

Money well spent

By Cherie V. Maral

A breakthrough La Prairie product treatment may be pricey but at least not as daunting as going under the knife

If claims to mend damaged skin and clear dense the aging process—with instant visible results of diminished lines, smoothed and tighter texture and denser skin tone upon application. Moreover, dramatic result is achieved in only six weeks.

The claim isn't exactly new, but not seeing the 12-ampoule preparation of La Prairie Skin Caviar Intensive Ampoule Treatment, you get the impression you can fully back up that claim.

The latest addition to La Prairie's Skin Caviar Collection, the six-week treatment set—in its vivid cobalt plastic bottles and an ultra glass vials—looks more like a chemistry laboratory project than a cutting-edge beauty product.

But the breakthrough product is not as daunting as it looks. Not as much as going under the knife is.

The plant stem cushion bestowed with a highly concentrated antioxidant elixir in brown-dried powder bases that is activated when combined with the liquid nano-emulsion in the cobalt blue bottles.

The hypothesis is to combine a potent dose Vitamin C that enhances collagen production, and super-oxide dismutase, another antioxidant.

The nano-emulsion, which is many times smaller than seven to ensure complete skin penetration, according to Rosella Andrea, Rustan's brand manager for La Prairie, is a mixture of essential nutrients, including La Prairie's patented whitening and skin-lightening Cellular Complex and Skin Caviar Extract, and dissolved in lotus alpine water base. The ingredients, simultaneously, penetrate the skin's collagen production, hydrates, evens out skin tone and banish age spots.

Each serum mixture of one bottle nano-emulsion and one vial of lyophilizate—applied on the face after cleansing day and night—lasts for one week. It visits all skin types, and all ages. The entire treatment need be consistently used for six weeks, and may be repeated up to four times a year. Still, there's if your pocketbook can take it right now.

For those familiar with the luxurious Swiss brand, you already know the meaning of the phrase "beauty comes at a price." The six-week Skin Caviar Intensive Ampoule Treatment alone costs P10,000. Make that four times a year, and you smile a bit much.

But if you consider the fact that it's a non-invasive treatment (no blood, thank you very much), and that La Prairie has been faithfully owning the elite and celebrated in all over the world (which can even take to mean it actually works), then what's P10,000 a year for a painless lift for a youthful, radiant and wrinkle-free look?

La Prairie Skin Caviar Intensive Ampoule Treatment is available at Rustan's La Prairie counter.

L'OCCITANE Shea Sensuals

PHYTO Hair care products

Better than an umbrella

Text by Cherie V. Maral
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

The market has every imaginable brand of sun-protection product that choosing what works and suits your need is a cinch

THE USE of sunblock is not rocket-science thing. By now, you probably do not need to be reminded of that...what with the many articles already written on the sun's ozone-causing ultraviolet (UV) rays, and the benefits of protecting yourself with sunblock.

The sun's harmful UV rays don't strike only in summertime. Each time you are under the sun, you are a sitting duck waiting to happen if your skin is left unprotected. Fickle perhaps 18 or 35-years ago, the PhilEquine number is now synonymous with every imaginable brand of sun-protection product from a fancy-schmancy bottle and style you need in a dash.

Trying to consider in making your choice include your lifestyle. If you stay outdoors a lot, it is very prudent to pick a product that's waterproof and high in sun protection factor (or SPF 15 or higher). Fun-drenched people have more easily reche higher the SPF the better.

If you have sensitive skin, there are sunblocks specifically formulated for your skin type. Stay allergic to chemical sunblocks? Opt for those intended for children, which are usually milder.

Unexpected options

Those allergic to strong scents need not fret as there are also fragrance-free options in the market. Some, on the other hand, who may be sickened by chemical-smelling preparations can choose pleasant-smelling products.

Nothing is as icky as sweaty sunblock melting on your skin on a hot, sunny day so pick a product that's odorless, especially if you intend to apply it on your face. You can also opt to treat those of creams and lotions, and pick spray-on sunblocks that are typically lighter.

Soothing after-sun products are also a must to counter the sun's ravages on the skin.

Protection for your hair must not be overlooked as it is equally susceptible to the harsh sun's rays.

At Rustan's Estetique, here are some of your choices:

Propolinse Sunscare Facial Sunblock Acerola Vit. C Face and Body With Kit (P1,500/120 ml) contains Propolinse, a natural ingredient from bees, and Acerola Vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant. Children: This SPF 15 sunblock is waterproof and has an anti-aging complex. Created by the Greek company Apifitos, Propolinse is hypoallergenic and fragrance-free. (P1,350/150 ml)

Murad SPF 30 Waterproof Sunblock (intended for the face and body, this one is light on the skin and leaves no unsightly greasy film. And it is formulated for oily skin types. This is a non-greasy, fragrance-free, broad-spectrum product, suitable for active outdoor lifestyles. (P1,500/120 ml)

Clarins Sun Care Cream Very High Protection SPF 15: This cream is for sun-sensitive individuals, as it is non-oily and paraben-free. Additionally, it allows you to tan evenly while safeguarding your skin with its Phyto Immortelle Complex. (P1,250/125 ml)

Clinique Sun Care Body Spray SPF 30: This clear spray is light and disappears quickly on the skin, and leaves a light sheen on the surface. It is unscented. (P1,295/150ml)

Bobbi Brown Beach Sunscreen for Face: Bobbi Brown's Beach Sunscreen for Face is a lightweight, non-greasy sunblock that is water-resistant and has a matte finish. It is also fragrance-free. (P1,500/50 ml)

Dermalogica After Sun Repair: This is a fragrance-free treatment lotion with soothing botanicals that reduce redness and symptoms caused by sunburn. (P1,400/100 ml)

Physio Flore and Barrier hair care products: They include shampoos, preventive spray and after-sun repair products.

PROPOLINSE Sunscare Facial Sunblock+Acerola Vit. C Face and Body Milk for Children

CLARINS Sunscare Cream

CLINIQUE Sun Care Body Spray

BOBBI BROWN Beach Sunscreen for Face

DERMALOGICA After Sun Repair

KORRES hair care products

HUNGO SPF 30 Waterproof Sunblock

L'OCCITANE beauty products are formulated for all skin types. CONTRIBUTED

OLIVE-BASED skincare items are natural ingredients

Oily skin you'll love

L'Occitane celebrates the olive harvest with three new products

By Belle V Bandoy

HOW about olive oil for your skin?

Olive oil gives many health and beauty benefits, says Elizabelle Villanueva of Boston's Cosmetics and Toiletries Division and brand manager of L'Occitane.

More than just a basic ingredient for pasta and salad, olive oil is also a "wonder" ingredient of beauty concoctions, chiefly providing antioxidant action to combat harmful oxygen free radicals.

L'Occitane, the French brand that carries a whole line of beauty products for the body, hair and body, takes pride in the success of its Olive Oil Line.

This month, L'Occitane, which introduces new products every month to meet the needs of its clientele, celebrates the olive harvest by coming out with three new products carrying the Olive Oil tag.

The products complete a complete line that offers total, all-around treatment to factors like pollution, smoke and sun which can damage the skin. These are Olive Eaux Fine Toner (P1,675), for deep-cleansing; Radiance Moisturizing Cream (P1,945), to replenish moisture levels and smoothen skin; and Express Radiance Mask (P1,795), to even out skin tones and eliminate impurities.

Finest ingredients

Like other L'Occitane items, the Olive Oil Line was created using the finest ingredients. It uses natural, eco-minted derivative, botanicals formulas blended through ancient and latest scientific procedures from the Mediterranean. None of the items was tested on animals.

Their active ingredient is a natural extract known as Olive Wood. Extremely rich in polyphenols, it acts as a free radical scavenger which is almost twice as powerful as Vitamin E in protecting cells against deterioration.

With the combination of hyper-oxygenated olive oil and olive water, the new products can restore radiance and balance to the skin.

"It has always been a false impression that olive oil works only for those who have dry skin," says Villanueva. "Absolutely wrong—because products that contain olive oil also work basically for those with normal skin."

Non-drying

Villanueva says what's good about them is they don't dry the skin unlike those that contain alcohol.

Villanueva personally recommends the Olive Radiance Moisturizing Cream, a moisturizing cream that can be used for daytime and night use.

Comparative tests done the anti-free radical action of the Olive Radiance Moisturizing Cream is superior to that of a similar cream without olive water or hyper-oxygenated olive oil. The cream's defense capability against free radicals is three times higher in the new formula.

Clinical tests involving 23 individuals showed that after three weeks of use of the Olive Radiance Moisturizing Cream, the skin of 84 percent of the subjects was better protected against the harmful effects of pollution. For 65 percent, skin radiance and luminosity were restored.

These products are formulated for all skin types and competitively priced.

A caveat, though. It is important to check how your skin reacts to a product. No two skins are alike. So a product designed for the same type may make someone's skin glow, but cause irritation in another. A dermatologist can help you know what kind of skin you have and what products you should use.

L'Occitane products are available at Rustan's Emporium.

E-mail the author at bbandoy@inquirer.com.ph.

MURAD Center's reception area

SPA-LIKE atmosphere extends to the center's lounge.

CLIENTS can savor the sense of exclusivity while in the treatment rooms.

An OASIS of well-being in a mall

Inside the Murad Center for skin treatment, you can easily forget you are in a shopping center

Text by Bobi V Bondoc
Photos by Joseph Aguanil

AT THE fifth level of Rustan's Glorietta 4 in Makati is a newly opened skin treatment center, the Murad Center.

The place is quite small and cozy and has an atmosphere like that of a spa. Inside the Murad Center, it is easy to forget you are in a mall.

Quiet and very classy, the center's ceiling and walls are painted to look like the night sky and the lights are arranged and dimmed to enhance that effect.

The center has just enough space for reception desk, small lounge for clients, consultation area for the skin treatment, changing room, staff room and four treatment cubicles.

The scent of aromatherapy oils greets you as you enter the treatment area, immediately helping you relax. Soft, calming music plays in the background, giving you a feeling of serenity and well-being as you lie on the treatment bed.

Since, Murad Center has only limited treatment rooms, it is important to make an appointment for treatments.

Personalized

According to Christine Arriola, Rustan's cosmetics and toiletries manager and brand manager for Murad, the center provides clients the optimum in facial care.

Personalized facial treatments were formulated by Dr. Howard Murad, renowned dermatologist and the institute's founder.

The treatment include the new Rosatopure Renewal Facial (P2,400), also known as anti-aging facial enriched with AHA (alpha hydroxy acid) Rapid Exfoliator. It is designed to counter loss of elasticity and dull skin associated with hormonal changes during menopause.

The treatment helps one fight aging even before it starts. It promises more radiant, visibly smoother and refined skin after just one treatment.

The 60-minute Hyperpigmentation and Repair treatment (P1,700) is designed to prevent the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. The treatment, said to be suitable for all skin types, promises softer, smoother and younger looking skin.

Power of C

Murad's signature treatment, the Environmental Shield Vitamin C Infusion Facial (P1,700), is an anti-aging therapy harnessing the antioxidant power of Vitamin C. The treatment repairs the aging effects of environmental assault even as it firms, smoothes and improves skin clarity.

Scientifically proven, Murad's patented infusion technology delivers the most powerful formulation of pure Vitamin C directly into the skin to repair and prevent damage caused by free radicals, tightly active and damaging substances in the environment. Vitamin C also builds a strong internal cellular defense by promoting new cell growth and healthy collagen formation. For best results, a series of Vita-C facials is recommended.

The Clarifying Enzyme Professional Treatment (P1,700) uses the exhilarating natural fruit enzymes of papaya and pineapple combined with antioxidants, astringents and anti-inflammatory ingredients to treat resistant skin while helping to dissolve dirt, oils and soften blackheads for deep cleansing.

The unique combination of astringents and anti-inflammatory soothes redness and reduces skin irritation.

At the Murad Center, five highly trained therapists attend to clients' needs. They were taught to do manual extraction during deep-pore cleansing, because the center doesn't allow the use of metal instruments to unclogging the pores.

"But in severe cases of acne breakouts and pigmentation, we have a board-certified dermatologist who does extraction," says Arriola.

CATCH UP HERE.

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